

Witness Discussion Meeting – January 14, 2008 – home of Pastor Pat

Present: Rose Bolich, Harold & Stella Webb, Gerald & Ruth Greenly, Steph & Lauren Byers, Deb Bartlett, Betty Morgan, Pastor Pat, Roger & Nancy Watts, Mae Jones

Those absent who have indicated their desire to be involved: Peggy Neuhard, Ed Coup, Rose Deaner

We began with prayer and a reflection on the gift of laughter as a sacred act.

1. Praised the gift of the sign in front of the church – great way to share with the community – many look forward to reading it each week – reminded one another it is not for us; for but those who pass by the church – need more help with getting ideas for the signs and getting the sign changed each week. Roger said his personal goal is to get people to think when they read it. It was a GREAT gift when we had the Hunter Page fundraiser, and also drew in people for Bible School and the Advent Pageant. Witness is reaching out to those who read the sign.
2. Discussed the mission trip for Katrina relief; how that disaster destroyed lives for many people, many social classes, many stages of economic abilities. The miracles happen when Christians get together to help others; witness is serving others directly. Steph shared a dream to have a Disaster Relief Team from our church who would annually travel to help people in need. (whether for Katrina relief or other needs)

Took a snack and stretch break! (the ministry of hospitality and feeding) ☺

3. Discussed the gift of greeters on Sunday mornings (started sometime by Terry Moll, but has been dropped along the way). Comments about how wonderful it is to be greeted in other churches when visiting; would like to revive it and increase the warmth, hospitality to visitors, and welcome it brings. Brief discussion on how we would like to regenerate the social time between Sunday School and worship somehow – drinks, snacks, etc. Youth have requested it. All thought it was a great gift. Mae Jones will write a brief invitation to folks to serve as greeters; Rose Bolich will research resources the synod may have.
4. Discussed the struggle we have as a congregation with clapping (or not clapping) in worship; wrestled with the difficulty of pleasing both sides of the concern. Discussed the hope of increasing recitals/concerts/public music events to serve people in the community. Discussed dreams for a high school ministry, thinking perhaps of youth ministries in the community to whom we might reach out, for example, with the sign. Lifted up the blessing of so many who use our building and the newest gift of making the church fully accessible to people of all abilities.
5. Decided to meet again at Pastor Pat's home on Monday, February 4, at 6:30 p.m. We will continue our discussions and bring others on board who were not able to attend this meeting. Closed with prayer and blessings for the journey.