

St. Stephen's Church Parish Life committee meeting
Notes from Tuesday, June 11, 2013
7:00 – 8:00 p.m.



Attending: Cindie Baker, Dick Huffman, Priscilla Huffman, Wendy Smith, Peter Threadgill

Bishop John Vaughan's visit

The committee recommended the Parish Life committee send Colby and Wiley Hawks a thank you note for their gracious hospitality in hosting the Bishop during his stay. Everyone agreed the reception was extraordinary.

Silly Summer Suppers

The first Silly Summer Supper will be held Thursday, June 20 from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. This will be a Bar-B-Que with cooking in the parking lot, eating indoors. Happy Riley is coordinating the dinner, with Don Ruthig serving as the grill chef (perhaps with some French flair??)

The suggestion was made that the summer suppers be announced in the Sunday Services. Emphasis should be placed on the flexibility of the dinner preparation – volunteers don't have to prepare the entire dinner but can buddy with someone else, or just make one course that fits with the main dish that is being prepared.

This year we will serve the main vegetarian dish from the kitchen, since sometimes people think it is a side dish, and vegetarians don't get a full portion. We need to be sure vegetarian diners are informed ahead of time. Cindie Baker graciously offered to make a vegetarian entrée for any evenings where there may be gaps in the sign-up sheet.

Church picnic

The church picnic date - Sunday September 8 at Ellen Reather's home - has been announced in the newsletter. Peter will add a countdown on the church web site. Parish Life will provide the meat, and closer to the picnic date the salads, side dishes and desserts will be assigned by first letter of last name.

Healthy recipe cookbook

Peter will create a flyer insert for the Sunday bulletins which will explain the concept and guidelines for the healthy recipe cookbook. We will be following the FDA definitions for the healthy designations, such as low-cholesterol, reduced fat, calorie-free, etc. The recipes must meet ONE of the categories to be included. Peter has a copy of the FDA labeling and nutrition guide, and can determine nutritional analysis based on the ingredients. If you are submitting a dish and know the nutritional information, please include it, otherwise, Peter will calculate it. We can also include recipes that are appropriate for certain dietary restrictions such as dairy-free or gluten-free.

Please include the number of servings in your recipe. Also, if you are submitting a recipe from another source, be sure to cite the reference.

The deadline for recipe submission is Monday, September 30 – the last day of September.

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Cookie Walk – Saturday, December 7, 2013

A planning committee will be formed to coordinate Cookie Walk this year. We will be baking the Raspberry Crowns (introduced at the Garden Party) and Cindie Baker will supply our jams and jellies. Please start bringing in any empty jam and jelly jars that you have, as that reduces our costs. The jars are expensive, and the church does underwrite their cost. Cindie can also use pint jars for the brandied pears and nuts. If you would like to donate a box of jars to the church, the best prices are at Walmart and Mars.

The biggest challenge with Cookie Walk is getting enough cookies baked. Some years we have run out of cookies early. Most cookies (except cake-type cookies) freeze well.

Food contributions for Jacob's Well

The food donations for Jacob's Well have increased the last few months. Discussion was held regarding whether small or large cans are most needed; Priscilla will check with Judy Eliot to see if she knows whether food is prepared in large groups or small family settings

Additional fund raising

A discussion was held regarding the need for a possible additional fund-raising activity in the fall. In the past, there have been two successful auctions held in the Parish Hall with some unique auction items offered such as baking someone dessert every month for a year, a homemade dinner for four, a hand-painted watercolor, a weekend in an Ocean City condo. There is also unsold jumble from the Garden Party currently being stored at the Ruthig's, some of which might be appropriate for the auction. The auctions in the past included an upscale dinner. Dick Huffman will check with Bill Hawkins on the need for fundraising in the fall.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 9, 2013 (second Tuesday of the month) in the church Parish Hall. All are welcome to attend.