

Board and Committee Reports To Governing Board September 2021

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION – Rebecca Courington

Children’s Ministry - Leslie Maxie

Highlights:

- WE ARE HAVING A FULL GROUP OF KIDS TOGETHER FOR “SUNDAY SCHOOL”!!!!
- Families are really enjoying the new timing and are attending worship
- new curriculum is going well
- volunteers have been wonderful

Hopes:

- Obviously hope this continues and hope more families feel comfortable attending.
- Hoping the new volunteers enjoy leading the new curriculum
- Hoping the kids are enjoying and continue to enjoy Children’s Worship
- Hoping the weather stays nice and we can continue to be outside, since most are comfortable with this

Youth Ministry - Travis Adams

Highlights:

- Sept 12 marked our Youth Group Kick-off with our new Sunday evening format. We now will have kids meet together for an extended time of 6:30-8:00pm for both large group and small group activities. After two weeks, we are averaging around 40 kids per week, which is an amazing turnout! We look forward to continuing our in-person meetings as well as all of our upcoming events:
- Youth Group Game Nights: A variety of fellowship opportunities for kids to play games at church, in peoples homes and other fun locales!
- Caregiver Coffee Collaborations: A monthly informal town hall meeting time for parents to meet one another, share their thoughts on recent events and engage with future plans.
- Confirmation: This is another confirmation year featuring youth retreats, community projects and our new group dynamic curriculum aimed at challenging our students to process what it means to be a Christian and how one discerns the presence and Truth of God.
- Plus many more exciting events including Christmas Parties, Super Bowl Parties, Drive-Thru Dinners and more!

Hopes:

- The beginning of the year is looking amazing. We cannot wait to see what is to come!

Adult Education - Betsy Hanzelin

Highlights:

- The Fall Adult Ed schedule is out and updated on website and the FCC Fall Flyer.

Weekday Preschool - Dallas Collins

Highlights:

- We opened on Tuesday September 7, 2021 with 1 director, 9 teachers and 73 children enrolled. This was our first day back in person, in the classrooms since March 13, 2020.
- Our drop off & pick up schedule is now done on the sidewalk in front pf the WPS entrance.

- Playground Clean-up on 8/21 had 15 families and 3 church staff
- Hosted playground playdates for each of the 8 schedules in 6 classrooms on 8/25 & 8/26
- Held 3 “meet your teachers” dates on 8/30, 8/31 & 9/1
- All classrooms were freshly painted (the hallways are scheduled to be done over break). Teachers also moved classrooms, schedules or partners this year. The “work” days leading up to school starting was a large undertaking and I’m proud of the cleaning that was done!
- 100% of staff is fully vaccinated
- We were met with a gap in scholarship donations, more need was requested than we had budgeted. A **VERY** generous donor sent a check for the entire difference. Additionally, we have received even more donations and are so thankful members at FCC have contributed to this worthwhile cause! Currently we are assisting 6 families and 7 children attend FCC WPS.

Hopes:

- Preparing for Back to School Night on 9/27. We are opening up the classrooms and WPS hallway from 6:00 – 7:30 and asking families to sign up for 30 minute slots.
- All staff have been invited to participate in “Appreciative Inquiry” October 1-3. Although it is not required, staff will receive professional development hours should they choose to attend.
- Picture Days with Thomas Photographic is scheduled outdoors for 10/5 & 10/6
- All school field trips Tuesday 10/12. 2’s & 3’s are heading to Windmill Acres in Beecher, 4’s & 5’s are going to The Children’s Farm in Palos Park.
- Enrichments are slated to begin 10/18 and run for 8 weeks.

My greatest hope is we’re able to continue providing excellent early childhood educational opportunities for our FCC Weekday families with the support of FCC church, community and parents for the entire school year!

BOARD OF CONGREGATIONAL CONNECTIONS – Larry Kane

Highlights

- Reviewed feedback from board members asking as Sunday morning hosts. We’ve enjoyed doing it and feel it has gone smoothly.
- Largely focused on the upcoming October 16 “Good Gourd” party:
 - Reviewed what we have/what we need (kudos to Brooke for putting together info packet for us to review! What we need:
 - Additional food vendor: Larry to contact Culture (they appreciated the opportunity but are unable this year)
 - Empanadus - Larry to contact as alternative food source
 - Parks Pastries or Small Cakes – Brooke to contact
 - Larry to source Village of Flossmoor hayride info from Stephanie Wright
 - Zeldenrust farms for pumpkins and décor (Brooke)
 - Anne Calderon to check with Fidel for DJ/MC services between band sets
 - Planned games and activities: pumpkin decorating contest, costume contest, “Hide and Eek” for prizes
 - Non perishables collection for You Matter 2’s We Scare Hunger trail; Annie Detrick hopefully to act as youth and board liason
- All board members asked to attend the party. Stay tuned to email for volunteer needs

Hopes

- For a well attended first event since regathering!
- For our creativity for fun ways to gather to continue!
- Looking ahead: Merry Mania and hopeful Christmas Trivia night\

DIACONATE BOARD – Sue Durkin

Highlights

- The Board voted to continue our monthly meetings via Zoom.
- The Board welcomed Anna Carvalho, who encouraged Diaconate members to sign up for the “Appreciative Inquiry” session scheduled for the first weekend in October.
- The idea of using gift cards for meal delivery services in lieu of home-cooked meals was discussed. Even though this might be an additional way of providing help, members all agreed that the personal touch of cooking as well as delivering the meal to a church member in need, was much preferred.
- The “Web of Care”, created during the isolation of the pandemic, a list of church members who could benefit from our “call ministry”, “card ministry” to stay in touch will soon be updated and revised now that in-person worship is possible.

Hopes

- The Diaconate needs to increase and revise our database of volunteers from the congregation to assist with meal ministry, transportation ministry, and memorials. We hope to appeal to the chairs of all Board and Committees to recruit additional names from these areas.
- We hope to find individuals willing to knit Prayer Shawls by hosting a “knitting workshop/class”.
- The Diaconate hopes to safely reinstitute our “Visitation Ministry” to serve our homebound churchmembers.

BOARD OF FAITH IN ACTION – Jackie Riffice

Highlights

- Direct Relief and ShelterBox USA were chosen by Faith in Action and approved by Governing Board for the World Communion Sunday on October 2.
- FIA will be offering occasional Mission Minute updates during Sunday services. Sharing the news about those agencies that we support will provide more information, access, and opportunity for the congregation. The Mission represented in September will be The Center for Equity in Medicine and Khesed Wellness will be represented in October. There will be more to come.
- In February 2022 we will have a food drive for Respond Now with drop off bins at church. We will also be able to donate on an ongoing basis to the Food Equity in Medicine pantry at church.
- We will continue the tradition of Christmas Angels by again providing for the Bethel Family Resource Center. We have asked the Bethel staff to provide us with names, gender, age, sizes and wishes for 50-60 individuals by November 1st. This list will be put into an online sign-up site for FCC members.
- The congregation’s involvement in the Harvey Project will most likely be after the houses are occupied.
- FCC will be awarded the Diane Kessler Award from Anew (formerly South Suburban Family Shelter). The award acknowledges our 20 years of support of the South Suburban Family Shelter. There will be a video of FCC members receiving the Diane Kessler Award that will be presented during the October Gala.

HOPES

- We are excited about the opportunity to share more of FIA’s efforts with the congregation and to offer speakers from our agencies for Adult Education.
- We have yet to explore those who are impacted by violence and the criminal justice system, something of deep interest to our board members. We have some agencies and ideas to pursue and will spend the next weeks and months finding a way to bring restorative justice issues to light at FCC.

BOARD OF WORSHIP & THE ARTS – Donica Van Voorhees

Highlights:

- The board met in person with 1 member on Zoom in September.
- Began discussion of “blending and diversifying” music styles in worship.
- Provided moral support to Katie and other staff who are working hard every week to continue live-streaming our worship services.
- Assigned responsibilities for the year for coordinating liturgists, ushers, and communion assistants.

Hopes:

- Board of W&Arts will hold a special meeting on Tuesday, September 28 to provide feedback on new music ministries job description. It is our hope and prayer that God will bring the right person for this position to our church.

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE – Kris McManus

Highlights:

- Last year’s campaign ended with 138 units pledging \$560,367 (I believe the budget number is \$535,000).
 - 2019 had 169 units pledge \$626,191
 - 2020 had 151 units pledge \$568,909
 - October 17 will kick off our 2021-22 pledge campaign. “I’m in” is the theme.

Hopes:

- Brooke is working on graphics, which we’re sure will be amazing.
- We will send out a postcard to generate some interest or intrigue BEFORE October 17. The thinking is that there are three mailings anyway (initial, reminder, follow-up), so why not plan it that way to energize it?
- We hope to use social media, Wednesday e-blast, the Narthex, etc. to educate the congregation why pledging is important, how we collect their pledges at FCC, and why it’s important to be “in.”
- We hope to show videos of members who have been "in" expressing why they have and continue to be "in" during worship from October 17 to November 14. These videos can also be shared on the website.
- During services between October 17 and November 14, Stewardship members may take turns speaking to educate the congregation as to how pledging and giving works at FCC for those who might not be aware. And we can introduce the videos. Who is introducing the videos may change.

No Meeting in September

Finance Committee