

Flossmoor Community Church
Board and Committee Reports to Governing Board
February 2022

Board of Christian Education

Gathered by Rebecca Courington

Children's Ministry - Leslie Maxie

Highlights:

- Fundraiser coming along nicely (thank you, everyone)
- Homemade Valentines cards out to home bound (kids truly enjoyed)
- New curriculum being thoroughly enjoyed

Hopes:

- Hoping families start to feel more comfortable joining us in person
- Hoping to reach our fundraising goal
- Hoping to get all curriculum pieces ordered by end of May
- Hoping to have a VBS plan by end of March
- Hoping kids are interested in bible class (last year wanted to wait)

Adult Education - Betsy Hanzelin

Highlights:

- Wednesday Morning Bible Study (in person) has continued into the New Year. This group studies the Narrative Lectionary reading for the next Sunday and is facilitated by Betsy Hanzelin. All are welcome at 10 am in the Genesis Room.
- The Discovery Book Club, led by Trina Hayes has continued to meet monthly, and has switched their location to private homes. The February selection was *A Most Beautiful Thing: the True Story of America's First All-Black Rowing Team*, and selection for March will be *Becoming Duchess Goldblatt*.

Hopes:

- Community Engagement is hosting with "A Most Beautiful Thing: Documentary & Discussion" event on Sunday, February 27 at 3 pm in the Sanctuary, as a follow up to the Book Club discussion and in honor of Black History Month. Our hope is that the community and congregation feels welcomed and encouraged to attend to view this inspiring story. Trina Hayes will facilitate discussion following the documentary.

Weekday Preschool - Dallas Collins

Highlights:

- January brought a new variant but we were able to stay open
- Classrooms learned about Black history inventors, hibernating animals and building snow people
- We have decided to hold off on enrichments again, the mixing of classrooms and children while eating unmasked still has some concerns. We will plan for enrichments to happen (possibly outdoors) after Spring Break.
- We had 2 snow days in the beginning of February
- Classes celebrated Valentine's Day with a special treat of ice cream sundaes and cookies!
- Snow pant & boot season is in full force, helping kids help themselves get dressed in outwear takes practice & patience
- THANK YOU to Simon and Bob for helping us clear ice on the playground, while it's fun to pretend to ice skate, our teachers appreciate the salt :)

Hopes:

- We're planning on a new event for Thursday March 24th from 9-12 at the Community House. This will be in addition to parent/ teacher conferences that week.
- Spring Break is scheduled for March 25- April 3

- 2 Spring field trip have been planned; Irons Oaks in April & Rapunzel at the Beverly Arts Center in May

Youth Ministry – no report

Board of Faith in Action

Submitted by Jackie Riffice

The quarterly pantry collection (Stock Up Sunday) will be scheduled for the 3rd Sunday in March for the Center for Food Equity in Medicine.

Applications for FCC Grants were issued and a response is requested by Feb 28. We have between \$10k and \$13k to distribute. Applications were sent to the following Community Partners.

- Bethel Community
- Jones Memorial Center
- Respond Now
- Anew, formerly South Suburban Family Shelter
- Restoration Ministries
- Center for Food Equity in Medicine
- YouMatter2

Flossmoor celebrated MLK Day of Service by hosting many projects around the community. FCC generously opened our doors to support the Girl Scouts' project (in the Community House) and to support a fundraising symphony concert for Respond Now in the church. Both were provided free of charge. Many thanks to Jamie Ford.

Board of Worship & Arts

Submitted by Donica Van Voorhees

Highlights:

- Discussed inventory of church visuals for the liturgical seasons of the church year.
- Provided feedback to Pastor Julie for worship in the season of Lent.
- Celebrated with Katie that new AV equipment for the sanctuary arrives this week, and a new Director of Music will be hired soon.

Hopes:

- The committee is looking forward to providing volunteers and support to Pastor Julie and Katie for the Holy Season of Lent, including Ash Wednesday and Maundy Thursday services; possibly Good Friday as well.

Stewardship Committee

Submitted by Kris McManus

In attendance: Kris McManus (chair), Tom Gilley, Ben VanVoorhees, Jamie Ford, Julie Van Til, Chris Dolan via Zoom Jamie Ford from Finance Committee attended, and going forward there will be a member from Finance attending Stewardship meetings. The Treasurer and/or Finance manager will attend Stewardship on a semi-regular basis. We all agreed that this would be a good working partnership.

We also discussed the idea of making Stewardship more of a collaborative committee rather than the committee that asks for pledges. We would like to collaborate with other boards and committees, especially Faith in Action and Congregational Connections, to see how special events or activities might be recognized as active stewardship of resources and gifts. In part, we hope to educate our current members on how to be good stewards of all God has blessed us with, and beyond that, recognize and learn how to be good stewards of our larger community. We would like to expand what our congregation thinks of when we think of stewardship.

Committee members shared what was learned by reaching out to members who have pledged in the past but from whom we have not received a pledge yet. There are no conclusions we can make with the calls we made. The people who pledged in the past but have not this year have 1) moved out of the community; 2) are suffering more and more ailments and are worried about upcoming healthcare costs; or, 3) are for the most part homebound, and are in financial straits. Tom mentioned that the people he called seemed happy to be called, and appreciated that we noticed they were missing. He added that they were happy to chat, but were not interested in pledging, due to their own circumstances, nothing that the church did.

We discussed how important making that personal connection is to our church family and to our larger community. Kris had brainstormed some possible activities to provide opportunities to connect with the community and also drum up some donations as well. The intent of the ideas was appreciated, but the specific ideas contain many logistical and leadership issues. We then tried to think of other ways to provide opportunities for our church family to grow, which led to a broader and extensive discussion of personal observations about people we know who are convinced that they don't need a church family, or that what they believe doesn't matter, and are just dropping out of religious life altogether.

Jamie and Julie then shared some plans the Long Range Vision committee has in the next few months that may provide more direction on how to make the personal connections within our church family stronger, and how to provide more opportunities to connect with the larger community so that our church family can grow.