

Nurture Commission Meeting MINUTES

February 26, 2020, 7 pm, in Pastor Pam's Office

1. Present: Beth DeGoede (Chair), Glenn Book, Ellen Flury, Kris Strayer, Trina Hollinger, Pastor Pam, Lisa Rosenberger, and delicious cupcakes courtesy of Pastor Pam
2. Members' follow-up activities are color-coded below for ease of reference: Beth DeGoede, Glenn Book, Ellen Flury, Kris Strayer, Trina Hollinger, Pastor Pam Reist, Lisa Rosenberger.
3. Church Board Review--from Trina and Pastor Pam
 - a. Small groups are up and running. Nurture is asked to think about intergenerational connections.
 - b. Nurture is asked to be aware of concerns about conversations in church growth.
 - c. Easter morning there will be two services with a breakfast and egg hunt in between. Nurture is not in charge of the breakfast, but we will prepare the eggs for the egg hunt (More details below on that.)
 - i. Early service = 8:15 - 9:15
 - ii. Second service = 10:30 - 11:30
 - d. We reviewed how things went with having two Christmas Eve services.
 - i. Attendance was up by 100 over previous one-service evenings and both services were comfortably full.
 - ii. Cookie refreshments in between went well, but we may not need so many chairs in future. Lisa shared that something different needs to happen with clean-up and some other plans for that in future years. Pastor Pam feels that Nurture Commission members will not be tending to that in the future.
4. Lent Challenge
 - a. We discussed formatting of our documents, looking to solve the printing puzzle. Thank you, Kris, for all your work on preparing those documents!
 - b. We discussed feedback on what is offered for Lent this year. We have not heard back from the congregation yet. However, with small groups, the Sunday School series, and the sermon series all being connected, the Commission feels we have enough opportunities available without adding services or other elements.
 - c. We discussed disappointment in not receiving the emails from 40acts, one of the challenges we included in our list. Ellen will try to contact the organization.
 - d. Trina will set up the bulletin board for Lenten Challenge responses within the next few weeks.
5. Weekend with John Pavlovitz - dates confirmed Sept 11-13. See details below in chronological list.

6. Calendar--As we discussed these events mostly in chronological order, for the minutes and ease of future reference, Ellen has arranged these events into that order.
- a. Easter Egg Hunt - April 12.
 - i. **Lisa will contact Jason about our filling the eggs for the hunt.**
 - ii. We discussed a desire to fill those eggs **during our March 25th meeting.**

 - b. Graduate Sunday - May 10th
 - i. This is usually Youth Sunday.
 - ii. Jason will cover this event for the church service.
 - iii. We will need to prepare bags/gifts for the students.
 - iv. No dinner that day because it is Mother's Day.

 - c. Blessing of Children - May 17th
 - i. Typically Mother's Day but not this year (see above).
 - ii. We decided to discuss plans for this at our March meeting.

 - d. Fifth Grade Books - June 7.
 - i. We decided to discuss plans for this at our March meeting.
 - ii. Will we need to prepare the books?

 - e. Camp Swatara Family Camp Weekend - June 12-14. Jason is handling this. It is not a Nurture responsibility, but we should keep the dates in mind.

 - f. VBS - July 21-24. This is not a Nurture responsibility, but we should keep the dates in mind if we are contemplating additional activities.

 - g. Game Night - At a later meeting, we will discuss a potential summer date, if it seems appropriate at that time.

 - h. Blessing of School Children - August 23 during church
 - i. Formerly called "Blessing of Backpacks" but we want to make sure people know we are blessing the children, not the backpacks.
 - ii. We discussed the idea of the congregation praying for the students in a group.

 - i. Church Picnic - August 23 following church
 - i. We discussed our roles in that event from previous years:
 1. Ordering ahead and heating food the day of
 2. Payment for food
 3. Set-up and take down of tables/chairs/canopy on the day of

- 4. Recruiting homemade ice cream donations
 - 5. Organizing entertainment and/or lawn game activities
 - 6. Bulletin announcements ahead of time
 - ii. We discussed the possibility of a set-up and take-down signup sheet for helpers outside of Nurture Commission members.
 - iii. We discussed holding a corn hole tournament.
- j. Weekend with John Pavlovitz - Sept 11-13
 - i. Schedule=
 - 1. Friday evening, 9/11, from 7-9. Speaking followed by meet-and-greet and book sales.
 - 2. Saturday workshop.
 - 3. Sunday morning speaking in Sunday School and sermon during the worship service
 - 4. Sunday service followed by meet-and-greet
 - ii. We decided that Nurture will co-sponsor this event along with the Witness Commission.
 - iii. Witness has \$2,000 for the event. Nurture has \$300 available for it.
 - iv. **Glenn volunteered to sit on the committee for this event.** Amy Karr is heading it up on Witness.
 - v. We decided that it is appropriate to charge admission to the events involving this well-known speaker outside of Sunday morning.
 - vi. Pastor Pam encouraged us to become familiar with the speaking and writings of John Pavlovitz ahead of time. John's website: <https://johnpavlovitz.com/>
- k. 3rd Grade Bibles - September 20. Do we need to prepare the Bibles?
- l. Golden Age Dinner - October 25
 - i. **Beth will ask Lucy Hernley if she wants to prepare the meals, or if she would prefer to pass that along to someone else. Trina is willing to consider preparing the meals if Lucy does not want to.**
 - ii. Entertainment is taken care of! Ted & Company is going to present a program that afternoon as part of the classical music series. The Golden Agers may need to wait a bit after the meal, but they can attend the Ted & Company program for the entertainment portion of the dinner event.
 - iii. The youth serve, and Nurture makes a contribution to the group trip fund as compensation.
- m. Date Night - Possibly in November **Pastor Pam will ask Jason about how date night worked last year.**

- n. Service Activity- Spring or Fall
 - i. We are thinking to replace Christmas Caroling with this service activity.
 - ii. We discussed possibly having a clean-up day at people's houses for those who would struggle to do it themselves.
- o. Game Night - In addition to a potential summer date, we discussed the potential for February 2021 with snow date in March 2021.
- p. Guess Who's Coming to Dinner - No date discussed yet.
 - i. We discussed some excitement about this possibility. People sign up to host the meal or visit others for a meal. Hosts usually prepare a main course. Visitors bring a side dish or dessert. No one knows who is coming or where they are going until the day of (except the planner).
 - ii. We discussed not taking on too much. If we add this activity, then we should remove a different one from our calendar list.
 - iii. This event is easy to implement because the parties involved do all that.
 - iv. This event is challenging to organize the planning of because of the following tasks/decisions:
 - 1. How to organize sign-ups
 - 2. How to assign who goes where
 - 3. How to notify participants about where to go and what to take
 - v. **Ellen volunteers to investigate how to organize such an event. She will check with Jason about how he organized small groups. She will talk to her computer-savvy friends about the possibility of streamlined assignments.**

7. Appointments that need filled:

- a. Child Care Coordinator
 - i. **Pastor Pam will search.**
 - ii. It was suggested that mention of the need be made at one of the family dinners for young families.
- b. Historical Committee
 - i. Beth reported that Jim Hoffer indicated he would do it since Jobie Riley, previous chair of this committee has passed away, but Jim needs a description of the duties.
 - ii. **Ellen volunteers to contact Jim with the committee description and verify his willingness to lead. She will mention the opportunity to chronicle the changes as our church building undergoes renovations.**

- c. Post High Group - Ages 18 -25, college or work force
 - i. We discussed the history of this group, to let young adults know that their church is here to be supportive of them. Thank you, Kris, for all you did to establish this group and the fund for it.
 - ii. We need to determine what the current need is for this group. It has often been a group hard to reach via attendance.
 - iii. How do we address that current need?
 - iv. Do we want to use modern technology to address the current need digitally and not spend so much of the fund on postage?

- d. Women's Retreat -
 - i. Lisa will search for a leader for that event.
 - ii. In the past, this event has been held in the spring or in the fall.
 - iii. In the past, this event has been sometimes yearly and sometimes every other year.

8. Next meeting March 25 at 7 pm in Pastor Pam's office.

Respectfully submitted,
Ellen Flury