

**Nurture Commission Meeting**  
**February 25, 2018 following worship in Parlor**

1. Present: Beth DeGoede, Rhonda Myers, Ellen Flury, Manny Williams, Jason Haldeman
2. Church Board Review - Rhonda
  - a. A majority of the discussion was focused on building plan updates.
  - b. A summary of only the main points from Nurture meetings needs to be submitted to Alyssa for the board meetings. That is due by the first of each month. Beth will take care of forwarding that information.
3. Lenten Home Gatherings update - Beth
  - a. We have 7 groups for this year, down from 11 last year.
  - b. Every group that was offered is full, and one additional group was added due to requests.
  - c. Additional discussion for structure for future years--Notes appear below in #6.
4. Dates of activities
  - a. Family Camp Weekend - June 15-17
    - i. Jason talked with Greg Epps (former camper/leader) about the history of how this weekend has worked in the past.
    - ii. All the cabins we had reserved last year are reserved for us for this year.
    - iii. Families who had cabins last year will have first choice this year. That is the way the camp offers reservations, and this process ensures that we will be allowing families to continue any traditions they may have established throughout the previous years. This offer will be open in the next few weeks.
    - iv. Jason hopes to open the sign-ups and cabin reservations to the rest of the congregation sometime in March. The timeline is to be finalized shortly.
    - v. Families will be able to come to the camp weekend for any time frame, from part of a day to most of the weekend.
  - b. Church picnic - August 26
  - c. Golden Age Dinner - October 28
  - d. Chili Supper and Caroling - December 16
  - e. Faith Markers
    - i. Blessing of Children - May 20
      1. Jason will have names for us next time we meet.
      2. No additional "specials" on Mother's Day this year
    - ii. High School Graduates - Youth Sunday April 29
    - iii. 5th Grade Books - June 3
    - iv. 3rd Grade Bibles - September 9
5. Women's Spirituality Retreat update from Deb Ziegler - The theme will be hospitality. An April or September retreat is being planned; they will know next week and will let Beth know which month they have selected.

6. Lenten Home Gatherings--Discussion of ideas for future years: How can we retain the small group element but include more people? Ideas presented:
  - a. Jason is considering sending out a survey to those who are participating in the Lenten Home Gatherings this year to get some feedback on how this year's setup worked for them. Any of us who are involved, please ask for feedback.
  - b. Have the groups meet at the church and ask different groups (deacons, Sunday School classes) to sponsor the meal at the church for one week each. That has been done in the past and included more people but does not really keep the small group feeling.
  - c. Ask different groups (Deacons, Sunday School classes) to sponsor small groups which meet in homes on rotating weeks so that one family does not need to commit to 4 weeks of hosting. This idea seemed confusing about who would be in each group, but it sparked additional discussion, which led to our favored idea so far--see below, item d.
  - d. Our favored idea so far: Ask people to sign up as "leader" hosts for 1, 2, 3, or 4 weeks.
    - i. Then, invite others to sign up to join those leader hosts' groups. The group would probably start by meeting at the leader host's house for the first week. Then, the group will determine who will host the same group of people at whose houses for the subsequent weeks. This keeps the small group feel without requiring a 4-week commitment from one host. We think this might encourage more people to sign up to host so that there is more opportunity for all to participate.
    - ii. In addition, offer child care at the church for the children during the Sunday evening Lenten Gathering time slot. This plan would encourage families with children to participate. And, with hosts not concerned about what the children will do during the study time, maybe more hosts will volunteer.
      1. Parents drop the children off at the church and then go to their adult small group home gathering.
      2. At the church, children have a meal and are supervised by caregivers with clearances (such as church family adults or college students) and the youth.
      3. There could be a Lenten lesson prepared for the children, led by the youth, thus increasing the understanding of Lent for both the children and the youth.
      4. The child care sessions could be a fundraiser for the youth.
      5. Nurture Commission could fund the caregivers (or parents could pay, but that might eliminate some participants).
7. Our next meeting is Saturday, March 24 at 8 am at Folklore.