**GSLC Inreach and Congregational Care Committee**

**Meeting Minutes of Thursday, December 12, 2019**

Present: Cathy Beaty, Cathy Peercy, Pat Westimayer, Pr. Sheryl Erickson, Jessica McCarty

Pr. Sheryl opened the meeting with a devotional reading from a Guidepost collection and prayer. Cathy P noted an error in the last meeting’s minutes. Under Connections Fair, the name should be Brenda Wilcox, not Brenda Palmer. The minutes of the October 10, 2019 meeting were approved as corrected.

Name Tag Sunday

Cathy P said she asked Judy Hoard about the name tag experience on November 3rd. Judy said some greeters she was planning to have at name tag tables did not come. Spouses of the event committee filled in so everything went smoothly.

The committee chose to have the next Name Tag Sunday coincide with the day of the congregational annual meeting, February 9th.

Metrics for November 2019

▪ 33 Monthly Home Communions

▪ 4 Hospital Visits

▪ 20 Follow Up Contacts

▪ 2 Funerals

▪ 15 Widow/Widowers

▪ 14 New Prayer Chain Prayers

▪ 11 Stephen Ministry Active Relationships

▪ 74 PrimeTimers

▪ 248 Card Writing Ministry (since July 1)

▪ 4 Prayer Shawls Distributed

Pat said the prayer shawl group is working on hats and mittens for the food pantry, clothes closet and Pr. Joe’s projects. Pr. Sheryl said that shawls in muted, neutral, or deep rich colors are preferred as they are less gender specific. All items made for the Pine Ridge project have been shipped to the mission.

New Member Class and Follow-up Contact

Pr. Sheryl said the next new member class probably will be scheduled near the end of February. The format will continue to provide dessert as a less expensive alternative to a full meal.

Follow-up phone calls to the previous new member class will occur in January. Pr. Sheryl provided a set of questions to use during the calls. Pat and Cathy B suggested another question be added, asking if there is anything happening in their lives that they want to celebrate and/or need prayers for. The decision is to call all who participated in the class, not just those who joined.

Keeping the Connection

Kimberly King provided an update on the program. Mailings, including card ministry cards, stress release/relaxation sheets, “Gratitude” fun sheets and bible verses for encouragement and inspiration, were sent to 29 college students. Future mailings will be in February (Valentine’s Day) and April (Easter).

2020 Budget Update

Pr. Sheryl reported changes to the proposed ICC committee budget proposal. The amount for New Member Classes was reduced slightly, because serving dessert is less costly. The amount for new ministries was zeroed out. Pr. Sheryl said that if the committee starts a new ministry, it can write a grant proposal requesting the necessary funds.

Other Discussion Topics

Gary Lewis has resigned from the ICC committee. He said he needed to cut back on his commitments, and because of poor night vision, he won’t attend meetings that are scheduled in the evening. That includes the ICC committee. Pr. Sheryl said she will think of a possible replacement for Gary.

Pr. Sheryl reported that Percy Brown, senior outreach specialist for the Middleton-Cross Plains School District, will be a guest speaker at the Stephen Ministry meeting on February 4th, 6:30 - 8 pm at the Madison campus. His topic will be racial equity. Pr. Sheryl said all interested persons would be welcome to attend the talk.

Cathy B said the Hospitality Committee has decided to schedule their meetings on Wednesday evenings. Cathy B has a commitment at the Allied Drive food pantry on Wednesdays, so she will no longer be able to attend their meetings.

The committee discussed whether a Grand-pals program could be implemented. Pat said Covenant Presbyterian Church has a program that matches visitors with people who are home-bound or in assisted living facilities. Their staff person could be a resource for planning a Grand-pals program. Pr. Sheryl said such a program probably would not be led by GS staff.

The next committee meeting will be on Thursday, February 13th at 6 p.m. Jessica volunteered to have devotions. The committee closed the meeting with the Lord’s Prayer.

Respectfully submitted by Cathy Peercy, Vice Chair