

**STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES – February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2007  
7:00 PM**

Present: Fred Muenkel, Diane James, Linda Schmidbauer, Jean McDonald and Cheryl Marotta-Staff, Denise Jensen-Council Liaison, and Steve Nekola-Council Chair

The meeting began with a discussion of the Pledge Drive. A 2<sup>nd</sup> letter went out the 19<sup>th</sup> of January. Household count- 908. This is down from the 915 reported at the January meeting. This number was determined by the people that contacted Cheryl to let her know that they are no longer parishioners at St. John Neumann. We have received 348 pledges- which is 38.3% of the membership. 19 of these returned just said “they will give what they can”.

We discussed doing another announcement to get members to return their cards. We felt it is getting too late and we will meet to address and get “Thank You” cards out to the respondents. This meeting will be February 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM.

Cheryl announced two (2) almsgiving events during the 5 Sundays of Lent. The first would be to St. Susan in Elkton, Kentucky and the second one would be for St. John Neumann. The Committee felt that after reading the comments on the returned pledge cards, it seems that parishioners are having a hard time continuing to support these other Churches when we are in such financial difficulties ourselves. Discussion centered on St. John Neumann being the first almsgiving event.

Cheryl would like to see the Stewardship Committee work on a promotion to get parishioners to “Live their baptismal promise” by encouraging them to bring a friend to Church, try to encourage neighbors to visit us, etc. We could also tie this in by bringing a friend to our Church suppers. We should also be thinking about moving forward with our “door hanger” idea. The committee felt we wanted to put a hold on this until we can have time to work on this. Lent is too close now for us to do a proper job of anything. We talked about tying the theme of our Jubilee into our Lenten theme. We could use our Jubilee theme by using the image of the Oak tree “stunted vs. growing”, branches producing fruit and seeds” and “keeping our trunk strong”. Without a “strong trunk”, meaning support from our parishioners, financial as well as time and talent the rest of the tree would wither and die. The committee agreed that these were good ideas.

Linda reported that the comments from parishioners on the pledge cards were mostly positive. They like the music and see a need to resurrect a youth choir. Jean mentioned it might be a good idea to print positive comments in the Bulletin to show that the atmosphere is turning around. Linda will contact Janet about this as she allots space in the bulletin for Com of the Month notices. We could use some of this space also.

We discussed the COM event and doing that instead of a Ministry Fair.

This way we can really focus on one area at a time. The Ministry Fair is a lot of work to set up and most of the committees get very little response from it. The committees that have already given their presentation reported that they have gotten new members from it. Diane would like to include sub-committees as well, so that new members can be made aware of all that we offer at SJN. The Choir will present in February, Fundraising/Social events will be in March, Worship Com. in April and Building and Grounds in May. Stewardship hasn't decided on their month as of this time. Diane needs to get an updated list of Chairs and Co-Chairs of the Standing and Sub-Committees.

We discussed the Church supper and the short notice we were given to prepare a “float” or some other presentation. After the meeting Denise offered to put together a float and asked for suggestions as to what we would like to see on it.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday March 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Diane James, Recording Secretary