**St. Brendan Parish Stewardship Commission Minutes -- April 25, 2015**

Present: Jo Hansen, Bill Nash, Chris Guiterrez-Flynn (pastoral council), John Phillips (staff), Mark Patterson, Bob Walsh, Ed & Julie Spencer (co-chair)

Absent: Marie Hedden, Carlos Villarreal, Deacon Jose Blakeley

Meeting called to order by Bill Nash. Prayer led by Bill Nash

The minutes of the March 28, 2015 meeting were reviewed and approved with Chris Guiterrez’s notes.

**Progressing Topics:**

The Phone-a-thon will not happen this year. Planning needs to start in September. We will look into getting help for John to generate report.

Stewardship as a Parish: A note will be placed in the bulletin for 3 weeks stating we are not doing it at this time.

Julie emailed the Parish Ministry Resourse Guide to all SC members.

Parish 5 year plan – Bill will bring this up with Jason Swager. Chris will ask at the next Pastoral Council meeting where they are with 5 year plan, and will bring a question from SC to Pastoral Council: What are the near-term priorities and objectives regarding 5 year plan and how can Stewardship support them?

Ministry Fair: Lessons Learned – Julie will report @ a later date – All were asked to send our thoughts to Julie by Tuesday, April 28.

ACA: Fr. Jim offered to be this year’s ACA speaker. SC recommends a Bulletin announcement be run listing services and ministries which ACA supports.   
Going forward, to find appropriate speakers for ACA and Treasure of Time and Talent, SC needs to start searching earlier. Bill will ask Linda for a new Parish FY calendar and add “START SEARCH” dates to the SC calendar attached to monthly meeting agendas.

Tripartite Meeting: SC has no visibility into status of the expected Parish staff cuts. Presently there’s no update because Fr. Jim is waiting on accurate numbers from the school; however, John said the numbers are accurate. SC needs to have better understanding of the long term plan. How can we increase Stewardship of Treasure participation? How can we generate more income? Finding a mentoring parish was suggested. John said the Finance Council requests that SC look into ways to increase revenue. One way to start would be to brainstorm a list. Regarding increased engagement and participation, Bill thought it may help if we partner with the Youth Ministry. Kids bringing their parents to church! We will invite Andrew Krieger to the May meeting.

Bill will schedule a meeting with Fr. Jim to discuss the staff cuts and parish budget. He will coordinate the meeting with Jason Swager (Pastoral Council) and a leader of the Finance Council (John Fogliani or Tony Partington). One topic of this meeting will be José’s idea for an extraordinary appeal to increase revenue.

Staff report – John distributed a retreat flyer for “Forty Weeks – An Ignatian Path to Christ with Sacred Story Prayer.” It is on August 10 – 12 at the Palisades. The retreat is a yearly program to help parishes live the New Evangelization.

$13,500 has been received by the parish since January specifically to reduce the budget deficit.

Bill had forwarded an email that John had sent him for the NW Regional Stewardship Conference for Alaska, Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and Montana. It will be held June 26-27 at St. Joseph parish in Yakima. The website is <http://yakimadiocese.org/stewardship-conference>.

The parish has received the first 2014 ACA rebate payment of $2,600.

St. Brendan’s goal for the 2015 ACA is $145,541 (lower than last year’s goal by about $10,000). Possible projects for 2015 rebate funds (if we exceed the goal) include:  
 - Re-model lower Brendan House to add meeting spaces and make the kitchen area more efficient   
 - Re-lamp parking lot lights  
 - Replace the lead calmes in the church stained glass windows

For whichever project is selected, donated services and labor will be sought within the parish to help reduce cost.

**New Topics:**

The church sound system replacement is going ahead with authorized ACA funds. Morgan Sound was selected. Their bid was within the available budget and will meet the parish needs.

The Parish mailed out a one-page census to help identify which households do not want weekly envelopes as well as those which no longer consider themselves members of the parish. Bill requested John provide status of responses.

Parish Council Report:   
 - PC supports transparency of parish finances  
 - Fr. Jim is getting advice from the business world.  
 - By definition the School budget balances every year because the Parish fills any shortfalls with the annual subsidy to the School. The subsidy amount is determined at FY end when the School closes its books for the school year.

Julie will not be returning for another three-year SC term. Bill requested all to think of folks to ask to consider discerning for SC. Parish Discernment Day is June 6.

How do people like/don’t like the new MyParish App? Are they using it? There was no time to discuss this. We will address how to use it to increase Stewardship, Engagement, Participation, etc. in future meetings.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30.

**Action List:** - Start planning for the Phon-A-Thon in September  
 - Place note in Parish Bulletin for 3 weeks stating Stewardship As A Parish is not being done at this time  
 - Bill speak with Jason Swager about the Parish 5 Year Plan  
 - Chris ask at next PC meeting where they are with the 5 Year Plan and ask SC question above  
 - All send Ministry Fair thoughts/suggestions to Julie by April 28  
 - Add “START SEARCH” actions to the SC annual calendar for ACA/Treasure/Time speakers  
 - Bill obtain new Parish Calendar from Linda  
 - Brainstorm a list of ways to increase parish engagement and participation. This will hopefully result in increased revenue  
 - Invite Andrew Krieger to May SC meeting  
 - Bill to schedule meeting with Fr. Jim on staff cuts and parish budget  
 - John provide parish census response status  
 - All – Look for folks to ask to discern for SC  
 - Look for ways to leverage MyParish App to improve parish engagement

Submitted by Mark Patterson (transcripted by his daughter Megan, expanded by Bill Nash)