

St. Vincent De Paul Parish Council
December 11, 2018

Because Mike is sick, Vice-President Amber Hendricks opened the meeting at 7:35 pm. Fr. Ray Chase offered a prayer.

Also present were: Dan Rolandelli (9:30 Rep), Mark Palmer (Chair, Finance Committee), Ned Banks (9:30 Rep), Dennis McMullin (Chair, Facilities Committee), Rita McMullin (Chair, Education and Enrichment Committee), Al Reichelt (Co-Chair, Liturgy Committee) Peggy Meyer (Chair, Social Action Committee), Colleen McCahill (Pastoral Associate), and Anne Freeburger (Corporator, Secretary).

Absent: Mike Jacko (9:30 Rep, President), Denise Hamilton (11:45 Rep), Chris Whitney (7:15 Rep), Pat Ball (Co-Chair, Liturgy Committee), and Graham Yearley (Corporator).

PASTOR'S REPORT

Fr. Ray said that we are planning an assessment of facilities report. Jim Dimmer has recommended that the parish make a commitment to make ongoing repairs and updates. The assessment will be completed by an outside firm, recommended by the Archdiocesan Facilities Department. The assessment will not be implemented before the Archdiocesan audit which is scheduled for the middle of January.

Saints James and John School has a new principal: Dr. Karmen Collins. A Committee has been formed to support fundraising for the deficit. There is a new Catholic elementary school being planned. The Endowment will provide tuition for the East side students as long as they attend a city Catholic school.

PASTORAL ASSOCIATE

Colleen told us that she was thrilled with the response to the Advent Booklet. The daily reflections will be posted on Facebook in the evening. Parishioners must open their privacy setting to share the reflections. We need volunteers to decorate the church for Christmas on the Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 23, from 1:00 until 4:00 pm.

Colleen has submitted an application for a new Jesuit Volunteer. Having a JV allows us to make a more codified response to doorbell requests. St. Ignatius parish has sent us a \$3000 donation from their poor box. Jeanie Cole is retiring after many years of service. She will help to transfer the management of the Food Pantry over to the JV and other volunteers.

Lauren Brunelli went through the audit questionnaire from the Archdiocese on the December 14-16 weekend.

Scott Synan from the Helping Up Mission has been helping with a number of projects. The Downtown Partnership has stopped helping in the Park. Scott has organized Helping Up volunteers to assist him in weekday mornings wake up and clean up in the Park. He has also helped with mulching and the cleanup of the janitor's area in the undercroft.

We need volunteers to help with the dinners on Friday.

We will have 175 turkeys and Christmas baskets to distribute on December 17.

EDUCATION AND ENRICHMENT

Rita announced that Jack Schmidt is planning a retreat for some time before Lent. Al commented that the film "Something in December" will be shown in January.

FACILITIES

Denny said that the Committee is working on a usage contract for rental of parish facilities and should have one ready for approval at our next meeting. The committee has a number of projects on hold waiting for the completion of the parish assessment. They have tweaked two sentences in their mission statement.

FINANCE

Mark will have a report available at the end of the quarter.

LITURGY

Al reported that Pat is sick. We have received the Committee minutes. Parishioners seemed pleased with the single service for All Saints and All Souls on Sunday, November 4.

SOCIAL ACTION, GREEN TEAM, and PEACE AND JUSTICE

Peggy said that there was a great representation at today's City Council Meeting. Joe Cronyn and Audrey Rogers did an excellent job with their presentations.

AD HOC COMMITTEE

Amber reported that the mission statement for the committee is in the minutes. There was some discussion about changes they wish to see. They plan to send letters to the Papal Nuncio after the bishops' meeting with the Pope in February.

OLD BUSINESS

Amber said that we had planned to return to our discussion on evangelization this evening. Al had shared an article with some questions about polarization within the church.

One question is how does our parish status/identity as an intentional parish place us at risk of being an echo chamber for liberal ideology?

Ned suggested that it might result in silencing both sides of an issue.

Peggy proposed that we have an interest in getting people in the door along with what we want them to see here.

Rita said that it can be awkward when you are grossly outnumbered by people with differing opinions.

Ned said that religion is not political and should not be ostracizing people.

Rita commented that she doesn't know many people at liturgies other than the 9:30 one.

Mark said that he has been surprised by the number of people offering political petitions at the Prayer of the Faithful.

Ned thinks that that is irreverent.

Mark responded that the entire liturgy is supposed to open and welcoming

Colleen requested examples of political petitions.

Peggy said that such petitions are not always said lovingly.

Ned said that sometimes they seem to be borne from confrontation.

Mark said that they contain a common political bent.

Amber pointed out that there is a difference between the liturgy planner's statements and those of the people in the pews who bring a personal petition.

Colleen said that such petitions may pass by her because of where she is. They may come from a place of hurt rather than hope and are intended for God to hear rather than Mass attendees.

Fr. Ray noted that sometimes people are not really praying but trying to make a point.

Colleen said that the Prayer of the Faithful can be one part of the liturgy which allows "warring petitions" to become an echo chamber of ideologies. We should be living the Gospel mandate without hubris.

Al mentioned that these type of petitions should not be offered by the liturgy planner. He questioned how many people have been unhappy with these petitions?

Fr. Ray said that he had never has anyone say they weren't welcomed but some have said that they did not like the liturgies. He then asked who are we evangelizing: the poor, the homeless, neighbors in our community?

Amber reminded us that our previous discussions had mentioned attempts to attract young people and young families.

Fr. Ray said that many young people are more conservative than our older parishioners.

Mark asked if that was true of those in the inner city.

Ned agreed that many young are more conservative.

Fr. Ray drew our attention to the rebuilding of the Church of the Nativity parish in Lutherville/Timonium.

Amber said that the idea of a Catholic elite is like a Catholic unicorn.

Fr. Ray said that elitism is a matter of perception.

Ned asked what the perception was.

Al replied that elitism is in terms of theological knowledge. The study of the Bible is very far ahead of the typical congregation.

Ned said that he thought that was the best thing about RCIA.

Al pointed out that if the perception is that knowledge is not accessible to the individual member then there is a critical problem.

Ned commented that there is a cultural perception that people who go to college are liberals/blowhards.

Al said that homilies are presented in both our park and our pews. Our marketing has to emphasize that the good news is accessible to all of us.

Denny mentioned that a group of parishioners are beginning to form an LGBTQ community.

Amber said that they wanted to gauge the parish's support.

Several members discussed an incident which occurred during a liturgy last summer.

Fr. Ray said that the lived experience of being LGBTQ and Catholic involves spiritual need and gifts.

Rita observed that many parishioners seemed to be welcoming at liturgy but not at Kaffeeklatsch.

Al asked whether welcoming visitors in the undercroft was part of Mary Kate's welcoming project.

Colleen said that the project was organized for a different purpose and noted that if we want someone to do that kind of ministry we might need to find someone else.

Denny asked if we have been following up on that project.

Fr. Ray replied that we have been following up with couples and parents who have a child baptized.

Amber asked if there are consultants available who can suggest ways to grow the church.

Both Peggy and Al mentioned "Rebuild."

Colleen did not know of any paid experts.

Fr. Ray said that growing the church is part of the Archdiocesan restructuring.

Amber asked what resources might be available.

Colleen said that resources might be on the "Be Missionary Disciples" website.

Amber wondered if those resources might be like a cookie cutter. She was concerned that it might encourage us to give up our identity.

Colleen mentioned Nativity as a local geographic community which has rebuilt itself.

Fr. Ray said they have been very successful in drawing people to their parish.

Colleen said that there is a difference between conflict and polarization. Conflict is not necessarily bad: people evolve into something which they had not been before.

Denny described the experience of Resurrection parish when it separated from St. Paul. The new pastor was progressive so those people joined the new parish. He didn't recall any conflicting issues.

Al commented that parish membership used to be based on geography and ethnicity; now parishes seem to be based on conservative and liberal identities.

Amber recounted several points from her conversation with Mike:

- We should try to go with things which seem to be working,
- If something doesn't work move on to the next thing,

- Revamp the website in terms of design, long-term maintenance, and possibly paying someone to run it,
- How would we find someone to do this?
- Explore Archdiocesan resources.

Colleen again suggested that the “Be Missionary Disciples” website might be useful.

Fr. Ray cautioned against using things which are just being rolled out because there may be some initial problems.

Ned said that it may be hard to keep up with technical stuff.

Colleen suggested that we could hire a MICA student to cover core needs. Al has been loading content to our current website. St. Ignatius has a full time marketing staff.

Peggy said that we need to look for someone to help improve the website.

Fr. Ray said that talking to Joe Yingling might be a great place to start talking about a new website design.

Colleen recommended that we might form a subcommittee of the Council to examine possibilities

Some ideas were to focus on young people, to increase awareness of what our parish has to offer through things like art exhibits, yoga classes, and social justice lectures. The Archdiocese has a bulletin which goes to all parishes. We can join with St James and John and St. Ignatius to promote things like our film series. Rita and Denny said that they had posted information about the film series in two libraries and two Starbucks.

Peggy encouraged us to submit ideas and discuss this again in January.

Amber agreed to put this on our agenda for January.

The meeting closed at 9:37 pm with the recitation of the Our Father.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Freeburger

Ad Hoc Committee Minutes 11/30/18

Attendees: Colleen McCahill, Al Reichelt, Gerry F., Maureen D., Fr. Ray Chase, Pat Ball, Amber Hendricks

Primary business was that the group determined a Vision and Mission Statement to help direct our future work together.

Vision Statement

We, the People of God, are birthing a more transparent and collaborative Church.

Mission Statement

We show up to initiate and grow transformative, reciprocal, and engaged relationships among laity, religious, and clergy. We hope to create and sustain meaningful change in the power dynamics and the structure of the Church. We will work toward the restoration and healing necessary due to the sexual abuse of children by priests and its cover-up.

Also discussed was where are we at in the process of establishing the Archdiocesan Pastoral Council? It was proposed that we write a letter to the effect that we received news of this with great hope. With all deliberate speed we would like to begin the process. Could we have a more open process for appointing delegates – i.e.

not appointing but electing. We would also want to reference the paradigm from Borders. - **Colleen to draft a letter** to Archbishop Lori before our next meeting and email to group.

It was also proposed that we request that the parish continue our efforts to communicate with our leadership. Further discussion is needed to decide how often to ask the church to send this communication.

St. Vincent's Green Team Meeting

Monday, December 3, 2018

7pm - 8:30pm

In attendance: Sue Woodman, Peggy Meyer, Rita McMullin, Mary Catherine Bunting, Peggy McMillan, Bethany Gregg

Updates/Old Business:

- "Reduce & Reuse" bulletin boards - Rita & Bethany

The two bulletin boards have been completed. They are titled "St. V's Green Team Invites You to Reuse and Reduce to Protect Our Earth!". There are 6 bulletin boards in the undercroft in total. The Green Team is currently using two. They are the two closest to the coffee bar. They were completed on December 2, 2018. It was suggested that we put an announcement in the bulletin to let everyone know about the boards and invite them to take a look.

- Delivering of signatures to Maryland Catholic Conference - Sylvia, Rita, Peggy Meyer

On November 27, 2018, Peggy Meyer, Rita McMullin, and Sylvia Eastman delivered the signatures that were collected at St. Vincent's at the Climate in the Pulpit mass. St. Matthew, St. Anthony of Padua, and St. Mary of the Assumption also collected signatures, totaling over 343 parishioners asking the Maryland Catholic Conference to support the Clean Energy Jobs Act of 2019. Peggy, Rita, and Sylvia joined several other Catholics and successfully delivered them to Archbishop Lori, in his capacity as Chair of the Board of Governors of the Maryland Catholic Conference (MCC). Steven Cleghorn of St. Matthews has followed-up this delivering of signatures with an email, which several Green Team members have received. Peggy Meyer will forward to anyone interested.

Upcoming Events:

- recommending green practices during Advent

Bethany & Sue worked together to put the first green practice in this past Sunday's bulletin. The topic was decorating for Christmas using green or natural decorations. We discussed the three additional green practices. We made some edits to the one about a Christmas tree and made suggestions of businesses for buying green products as gifts. Bethany will make additional edits and send them to Sue, who will put them in the bulletin each week during Advent.

Advent week 2, Dec. 9th: This year, instead of buying a cut Christmas tree, buy a [live Christmas tree](#) and then plant it in your yard after the holidays are over. An even greener option is to buy a tree indigenous to Maryland to plant in your yard!

Advent week 3, Dec. 16: Consider giving eco-friendly or homemade gifts to those on your shopping list, such as books on green living, mass transit passes, gift certificates to health food stores or organic restaurants, membership in an organic farm or co-op, or donations to organizations that support the environment. Check-out <https://4ocean.com/>, <https://www.shopetee.com/>, or <https://gifts.worldwildlife.org/gift-center/> for some green gift ideas.

Advent week 4, Dec. 23: Consider the environment when wrapping gifts! Look for wrapping paper made from recycled materials or, even better, make your own gift wrap from cloth, old magazines or newspapers, or an old calendar. Then, save wrapping paper or gift bags from gifts you receive to use next year.

- monthly showing of Story of Stuff films (beginning January 2019, once a month)

We will show the original “Story of Stuff” online short film on Sunday, January 13th. We will show a new “Story of Stuff” online short film on Sunday, February 10th, “The Plastic Bag Diet.” We will continue to show one short film each month on the second Sunday. We will show them after the 9:30am mass in the undercroft in the stage area. We will talk to Kathy Younkin and Ray Heil about the technology side of this monthly presentation.

- discuss details on the showing of “This Changes Everything” (when, where, what time.....)

We will show the 90-minute film “This Changes Everything” on Wednesday, February 20th. We are considering ordering pizza, but need RSVPs from parishioners to know how much to order. Food served 6:30pm, movie at 7pm. We will ask that parishioners RSVP by February 17th. Sue will put announcements in the bulletin on February 3rd, 10th, and 17th. We hope to use the remaining money from the \$1000 we were given for ordering pizza, buying popcorn, and/or buying an item for a raffle. Sue offered to donate some reusable bags she recently received for a raffle. Rita will look into obtaining the DVD of the film.

- For the environmental commitments made by the congregation to practice for one month, we will ask them to bring their written individual actions(s) to Mass to be placed in the Offertory Basket as a visual sign of participation.

Many parishioners made personal commitments to make environmental changes in their lives at the Climate in the Pulpit Sunday mass on October 7, 2018. A bulletin announcement reminded parishioners of these commitments in November. In Advent we are making recommendations for parishioners to make changes to their holiday practices. Moving forward, we determined several times to ask for re-commitments and/or remind parishioners of commitments they already made. On December 30, 2018 and January 6, 2019 we will include a bulletin announcement encouraging parishioners to include a new green practice in their New Year’s resolutions. Additionally, when Lent begins (Ash Wednesday is March 6, 2019) we will invite parishioners to place a written personal eco-friendly commitment into the collection basket as part of their Lenten sacrifices.

- Earth Day Fair (Sunday, April 28) - recycling experts, green products, etc.

We determined that this would be a good time to discuss various items that can be recycled in non-traditional ways (such as taking clam-shell plastics to MOMS Organic Market or recycling through <https://www.terracycle.com/en-US/>). Peggy will re-contact someone she contacted (without a response) about coming to this event as a recycling expert.

Other Items:

- letter from Congressman Dutch Ruppersberger cosponsoring H.R. 502 permanently funding The Land and Water Conservation Fund (Sue received an email)

Sue read a letter she received from her Representative. We are all encouraged to call our Representatives in support of HR 502.

- Individual actions at home - Helping End Styrofoam Pollution letter & Help Pollinators (Bethany)

Bethany distributed to everyone at the meeting two papers. One is a list of instructions provided by the organization “Smart on Pesticides Maryland” which lists 5 steps to help make sure that no bee-killing products are being sold illegally near you. The steps include visiting a neighborhood store, look on the shelves for banned products, take a picture, report it to the store manager, and file a report.

The second paper was a letter that can be sent to a business or restaurant that gives you Styrofoam. The paper should be personalized and then sent to the business to encourage them to help our environment by ending the use of Styrofoam.

Green team members are encouraged to complete these two tasks individually.

Additional Discussions:

- Peggy Meyer received a letter of thanks from Interfaith Power and Light and Chesapeake Climate Action Network. She passed the letter around. It thanked us for participating in the October Climate in the Pulpit event.
- Mary Catherine is going to look into a possible upcoming vote of the City Council regarding the BRESCO trash incinerator. We may be able to put this information in the bulletin and ask parishioners to call their City Councilmember.
- Sue has a spreadsheet that she is updating as our Green Team participates in various events and activities. Recent updates to her spreadsheet include:
 - 11/10/18 and 11/17/18: Oyster cage cleaning (Sue Woodman and Peggy Meyer on 11/10; Kathy Younkin on 11/17)
 - 11/27/18: Delivering of the signatures to the MCC (see above) – Sylvia Eastman, Peggy Meyer, Rita McMullin
 - 11/28/18: Webinar that Peggy McMillan and Sue participated in
 - 11/30/18: “Before the Flood” movie & discussion organized by Baltimore 350.org – Sue and Liz Hassan
 - 12/2/18: Bulletin boards completed in the undercroft – Bethany Gregg, Rita & Denny McMullin

St. Vincent de Paul Church Liturgy Committee Minutes November 27, 2018

Present: Fr. Ray, Joe Organ, Al Reichelt, Pat Ball, Valerie Rolandelli, Janice Bonner, Peggy Meyer, Colleen McCahill

Absent: Anne Maura English, Gerry Fialkowski, Jim Casey, Graham Yearley

The meeting began with a prayer led by Pat Ball.

We confirmed that plans for Advent had been finalized. Joe provided copies of the order of service for Advent and all reviewed it and accepted it. The penitential rite that has been written will be used throughout Advent and the first petition in the prayer of the faithful will remain constant during Advent. Mary Catherine Bunting has agreed to prepare the Advent wreath as she has done for many years and Kathy Betta has agreed to recruit and coordinate the candle bearers for the Advent liturgies. Colleen and Fr. Ray will take care of this at the Saturday Mass and Peggy will check with Dennis Moore about the 11:45 AM Mass. Joe announced that we will be using the Mass of Creation during Advent. We confirmed that the prologue to John’s gospel will be read as a meditation after communion on December 30 and January 6. Janice announced that she still needs a liturgy planner for the 8 PM Christmas Eve Mass and the Christmas Day Mass.

We reviewed the Cycle C lectionary for the coming year and Colleen will post it on the website.

It was decided that liturgy planner training will begin in February with the goal to implement the process on the first Sunday of Lent. Al will do a proposal for this, which he will distribute for review. There was much discussion regarding

the plan for ongoing feedback and evaluation for the lectors. Most of the lectors had appreciated the training and evaluation they received and were happy to continue receiving feedback and evaluation. However, there were a few who were not happy with the process and felt that it prevented others from wanting to be lectors. Because we have so many lectors, there is a significant gap in time between assignments, so it is felt that lectors need reminders regarding the rubrics. It was decided that the rubrics, without the evaluation scale used during the training time, would be provided to the lectors when Janice sends out the schedule, so that they would be reminded of what makes for a reverent and meaningful proclamation of the Word. It was suggested that lectors may want to use these criteria to evaluate themselves in addition to getting feedback from others. There were actually several lectors who volunteered to evaluate other lectors. Pat Ball agreed to provide that list to Janice, so that she could develop a schedule. We also discussed investigating other computerized automatic ways to remind lectors of their responsibilities, much as other professions do in confirming appointments. Janice agreed to speak with Joe Yingling about this. We agreed that it would be valuable to have an annual retreat for lectors, liturgy planners, and Eucharistic ministers and to have a liturgy where they would be acknowledged to the congregation. We also felt it would be helpful to recruit some new, younger Eucharistic ministers. If we are successful, Colleen will train them to serve during the liturgies and to minister to the sick/homebound.

Fr. Ray had submitted a proposal for involving more laity in the liturgy, specifically by implementing a procession. There was much discussion of this, but no consensus was reached. This will need further discussion.

Anne Maura had submitted some recommendations for shortening our liturgies as we felt that visitors to St. V's may not return because of the length of our liturgy. Shortening our liturgies may be one avenue for evangelization. One idea that we discussed during the meeting was breaking the bread ahead of Mass, possibly having the person who baked the bread break all but one of the hosts prior to Mass. We tabled the idea because we couldn't decide on a feasible way to do this. Gerry Fialkowski, who was not present at the meeting had also suggested some ways of shortening the liturgy. Since we ran out of time at this meeting, Pat Ball asked that each member of the committee submit his/her recommendations for shortening the liturgy and then we can have further discussion.

The Facilities Committee had asked us for recommendations regarding the renovation of the confessional. After discussion, we decided that whatever repairs/painting needing to be done should be done, but we had no specific recommendations otherwise. That room cannot really be used as a confessional as it is with a solid door. We really don't need a designated space for a confessional at this time. Fr. Ray will share our discussion with the Facilities Committee.

At our August retreat, we had decided to have monthly meetings for 1 hour instead of our previous practice of meeting every two months for 2 hours. However, we have been unsuccessful at limiting our monthly meetings to one hour. **We scheduled our next meeting for January 12, 2019, 10:00 AM –noon.** At that meeting we will decide on the remainder of the schedule.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Ball

Next meeting February 4, 2019, 7:00 PM Mary Catherine will facilitate

Present: Barbara Bowles, Mary Catherine Bunting, [Chuck Frascati](#), Peggy Meyer, Dennis Moore, [and Giuliana Valencia-Banks](#);

Immigration- Nothing good to share. In addition to everything else there is the public charge restrictions for legal and undocumented immigrants that the current administration wants to make more stringent. These changes will impact individuals and families negatively if they are implemented. There is a preliminary stay injunction on TPS. The injunction stops

the TPS termination immediately. The decision only covers El Salvador, Haiti, Nicaragua and Sudan. DACA termination has a stay but there are still no new applications. Renewals are happening but not so many due to fear and the \$495 fee to apply for DACA. Ultimately though, it will most likely be the Supreme Court that will decide on the future of TPS and DACA. We must continue to put pressure on Congress to pass comprehensive immigration reform. Esperanza Center is still in its temporary location. It may be in temporary quarters for another year or so. The city council is vetting the Mayor's proposed new police chief. They are soliciting questions from city residents to ask the proposed person when a delegation visits Ft. Worth on Dec 9th. The vote to approve him or not is scheduled for Jan. 28, 2019.

BRIDGE Maryland- Audrey Rogers is working with BRIDGE to have source of income eliminated as a reason to turn away people from rental units. Having Section 8 vouchers as a source of income is often a reason for not renting to someone. There is a city council hearing on Tuesday, December 11, to consider this change.

San Juan de Limay- Maureen was not in attendance to provide an update.

20/20 Roundtable Initiative- Jack was not in attendance to provide an update. Dennis had some news that \$29 million in funding did pass and that the Mayor will cover the balance.

The Green Team- They met on 12/03/18. On Tues, November 27, 2018 They took the signatures that were collected to ask the AOB to include climate issues in their lobbying to the state legislature during its session that begins in January. They met briefly with Archbishop Lori to discuss this. They also complimented him on his stance on sexual abuse by clergy and on racism. On November 10 & 17 some of the Green Team participated in oyster cage cleaning in the harbor. Beginning on Dec 30 they will remind parishioners of the commitments made after the climate liturgy. "Green" suggestions for Christmas are going into the bulletin during Advent.

Pax Christi- On 11/18 Chuck attended the annual Peacemaker of the Year awards dinner. 20 young people were honored that evening. The keynote speaker was Rev' Leslie Tune, Director of Ecumenical Advocacy Days for Global Peace and Justice. The Advent Vesper service will be 12/09/18 at St. Vincent's. The speaker will be Audrey Rogers.

Beyond the Boundaries (BtB)- ~~Meeting with Bishop Madden and Mary Catherine, Chuck Frascati,~~ and Maureen Daly attended the 11/14/18 meeting. They met with a financial group to talk about ways to be a subsidiary of a current 501c3 organizations. This would allow Beyond the Boundaries to become an organization independent of the AOB but to not need to do all the required paperwork.

SAC notes:

Oscar Romero Canonization- Mass on October 14. was very good.

Jonestown Planning Council- Is meeting tonight, 12/04. Peggy has not yet learned how to bilocate so decided to be here.

Men's Clothing Program- The program has been deluged with clothing for the door ministry and the men's program. About 30 – 40 men routinely are served each month. Sue Woodman and Jack Schmidt are helping.

Monday Food Program- 160 turkeys will be distributed to the Monday food recipients, students at Crescent Springs School and a Recovery Group.

Breaking Bread with the Hungry (Friday Night Meals)- Outside groups like to distribute clothing inside during the dinners. This often leads to a bit of chaos. Some Friday night volunteers met to discuss how to better manage the clothing distribution. There will be some upcoming special holiday meals as well as Christmas gifts for children.

The Resource Exchange (TRE)- There was a pick up at the Villa that was closing and ~~TRE~~ there were many got bedroom furniture, tables, and dining room chairs. Charlestown contributed some furniture too.

Bishop Madden's Prayer Walk- On 10/29 there was a walk at Holy Cross. Peggy, Jack, Sue Woodman, Denny, Rita & Mary ~~Laukaitis~~ Lukatis attended from St. Vs. The next walk is Dec 10 at Sacred Heart of Jesus in Highlandtown.

The Ecumenical Prayer Services for Peace in the Middle East- St. V's hosted on October 22. The evening was well attended.

Friends of St. Vincent's Park- There are still food problems with outside groups.

St. Vincent de Paul feast day- Schools supplies were delivered to Saint James & ~~Saint~~ John. Subsequently a thank you note was received from the school.

OLD BUSINESS

- **The Latino Racial Justice Circle-** There was an ecumenical immigration workshop on Saturday, October 13, 2018, from 10 am-2 pm at the Archbishop Borders School. 36 people attended among whom were Jules, Louise, Mary Catherine, Caroline, Peggy, and an unnamed couple.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Habitat for Humanity-** Peggy called Habitat for Humanity of the Chesapeake on Oct 10 to inquire about a build. She has yet to receive a response.
- **St. James & John-** Mary Catherine has a picture depicting a black Holy Family that she is donating to the school sometime in December.
- **Welcoming LGBTQ Community-**A small group is meeting to see how to have better outreach, e.g. on the St' V's website. Jules is a part of the small group.
- **CTA-** On Dec. 2 there was a conference entitled Voices of Women in the Church that was held at St. Matthew Church. 80 – 90 people were in attendance, 5 of whom were men. St. V's accounted for 10 women and 1 man.
- **South African Higher Education Fund-** J & P committee will donate to the fund as has been done for a number of previous years.

Respectfully submitted by **Barbara Bowles**

SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES NOVEMBER 6, 2018

The meeting began at 7:00 pm. Attending were Peggy Meyer, Chuck Frascati, Jack Schmidt, Joe Cronyn and Peggy Cronyn. In Ray Heil's absence, Peggy Cronyn took the minutes.

Reports from the following programs are:

Friday Night Dinner: Attendance averaged 245 in September and 224 in October. Peggy Meyer reported that they were a bit short of volunteers recently.

Emergency Services: September expenses for the Men's Program were \$703 and served 42 men; October expenses were \$824 and served 46 men.

Expenses for the Food Program were \$493 in September and \$955 in October.

The call for additional help in shopping for these programs resulted in new volunteers.

The Resource Exchange: The budget balance is \$24,000. Because the program now rents 4 storage units, our monthly storage rental cost is now \$1,600. The additional unit is needed because of a large influx of furniture from The Villa, which has been vacated by the Sisters of Mercy and the Mission Helpers.

Harbor City Services, which has been under contract to Health Care for the Homeless for our weekly moves, will be downsizing their trucking capacity at the end of the year. HCH is negotiating with a new vendor to undertake the moves and pick up and store the bed sets we purchase.

The quarterly pick up of furniture from Charlestown went very smoothly, thanks to the many volunteers who helped, in addition to two men from Helping Up Mission. Their help is very much appreciated.

Jonestown Planning Council: Ronald McDonald House is hosting an Open House in December for Jonestown residents. Joe Cronyn reported that he remains involved in helping City Springs Elementary/Middle as they participate in the Perkins Homes redevelopment, which will eventually include a new building for City Springs.

Peace and Justice Committee: A Pray for Peace night was held on October 22nd, with 20 people attending. The Bishops meeting is scheduled for November 12-14. The meetings are live-streamed and will be streamed at St. V's in the Education Rooms. You can also see them via the USCCB website online.

Green Team: Participated in a tree planting on October 14th in Cherry Hill. Bethany, Peter & daughters, Sue Woodman, Peggy and two HUM gentlemen planted with a group from Sacred Heart.

The National Aquarium sponsored the Jonestown Cleanup on November 3rd. Peggy participated. Also, Ray Heil continues to work with The Aquarium on a new grant application.

Next Meeting: The Committee agreed to switch our meetings to daytime. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 7th at 10:30 AM.

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM.