

AGLC COMMITTEE MINUTES FOR DECEMBER AS REPORTED IN JANUARY 2020

Christian Education

Youth Christian Education: In late November, Lori Anderson visited our PreK-MS classes and talked to them about the Capital Campaign. All the kids were provided piggy banks (with 3 sections for savings, spending, and sharing) and commitment cards so they could be a part of the campaign.

The major activity in December was the Sunday School Christmas program, "Starry Night, Noisy Night," which was presented at the 11 am worship on 12/15. All PreK-5th graders were invited to sing and many had speaking parts for the different animals in the stable; three 4th-5th graders served as narrators, as well as singing with the younger kids. The Middle School students played the key roles in the nativity story (e.g. Mary, Joseph, innkeeper, wise men, camel). The teachers and kids worked very hard on this program (learning songs, making/assigning costumes, practicing lines) in the Sundays leading up to 12/15 and even had an extra rehearsal after church on 12/8 (it is really a huge effort to pull off). A special thanks to Linnea Wolters and all the teachers for their commitment and support in making that happen!

During the Sunday school hour, before the program, we had a birthday party for Jesus complete with cake and candles. All the students were given a star ornament as a Christmas gift. We also showed our appreciation to all our Sunday School teachers with a Christmas gift of a Starbucks card and Biscotti.

Sunday School has been on Christmas break since then and will resume this Sunday, 1/12. We are continuing with the same curriculum that we used in the fall. For the PreK-5th graders, the curriculum is created by Augsburg Fortress and called Spark Lectionary. It follows the scripture readings used in worship so the children get exposed to the readings twice on a Sunday, making it more memorable for them.

Middle school and high school students are also continuing their studies. High school meets Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m. and resumed Jan. 7. The high school mission trip is June 20-28. The group will travel to Panama City, Florida and help the community rebuild from Hurricane Michael.

Confirmation for grades 6-8 resumes Wednesday, Jan. 8, 6:30 p.m.

Adult Ed Report: Bible study finished the year on a high note with a terrific end of the year celebration at the Looft's house. We will resume at 7:00 pm on Tuesday the 7th and begin keeping track of attendance.

Men's breakfast and bible study got off to a restart on Saturday the 4th. We had 13 men and the theme for this year is Big Questions.

The No Shortage of Questions podcast is up and running. We will release an episode every week for members who would like a bible study on their own schedule.

Pastor Nick will lead an adult Sunday School on the theology of Mr. Rogers beginning Jan. 12, 2020. Anyone interested is encouraged to see the film *A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood*.

Sunday school for all ages resumes Jan. 12 at 10:00 a.m.

Communications

Website didn't wrap as quickly as hoped. After a lengthy discussion with John Nelson, we made the decision to keep some of the external files and elements of the old site. This has caused some delay in the completion, as Kelcey is having to manually move quite a bit of files over and revamp member pages. The holidays caused a bit of a slow-down as well, but Kelcey is back up and running on new site updates as of this week (Jan. 6). The welcome video by Nick (and help from Allison) is complete and on the site. Google calendar has been integrated into the site, but needs a few tweaks on mobile. Hoping for no more hiccups or delays! Completion is so close we can smell it.

Fellowship

We did not have a meeting in December, but we had several of our biggest events.

ADVENT DINNER:

On Sunday, December 8, at 5 pm we had the Annual Advent Dinner and Variety show. The Abiding Dudes fried 6 turkeys and smoked 4 hams and 2 dozen sweet potatoes. The Fellowship committee also provided potato dishes, bread, fixings and beverages. The rest of the meal was potluck with the first half of the alphabet providing desserts and the second half providing veggie or salad side dishes. Members were strongly encouraged to sign up for the dinner and include any guests who might attend. This allowed us to be more prepared with enough places set and plenty of food. We fed about 120 people and had much less meat left over than we did last year.

Note: we've realized when we divide the members by alphabet between M and N, we have many more in the first half than the second half. Before our next Fellowship potluck we will do a study of our membership roster and adjust to achieve a more even split by number.

VARIETY SHOW:

We were again extremely blessed to have Alyssa Peters here to be our MC. We had about 15 acts in the Variety Show (including the much-loved Ollie and Lena), and everyone was great about signing up and coordinating. Things went very smoothly thanks to Nick Tomlin running our technical system and getting things organized beforehand. He did a great job of communicating with the committee and the performers, and working with John to get online registration available. Nick will be very sorely missed next year, unless we're fortunate enough to get him to come back like Alyssa has. We actually have a lot of people who willingly pitch in to help pull this event off. I won't try to list them all b/c I would undoubtedly miss someone, but God faithfully provides us with these angels every year!

LADIES' CHRISTMAS BRUNCH AND SECRET SISTER REVEAL:

Held on Saturday, December 14, at 10 am, this event is always open to all the women of Abiding Grace and they're encouraged to bring guests of any age. The Fellowship Committee provided beverages, yogurt, fruit and pastries, and the ladies were invited to sign up to bring brunch dishes too. Part of the fun is revealing the secret sisters, who exchanged the last gifts of the year. However, being a secret sister is not required, and those attending who weren't were also invited to bring a gift to exchange with other ladies who weren't secret sisters, or to just attend, enjoy the fellowship, food and fun. It's truly not about the gifts, but it is about the friendships and bonds that are formed as we secretly pray for each other all year long. We had about 36 ladies and girls in attendance.

The Men's Breakfast was held Saturday, December 7th at 8 a.m.

The Women's Monthly Breakfast at Black Walnut was replaced by the Ladies Brunch.

Member Care

Member Care did not meet in December and did not have any updates.

Outreach

Outreach did not meet in December and did not have any updates.

Personnel

Personnel had no changes to payroll and no concerns by staff.

Property Committee

1. Discussion

- a) Discussed flooring options for Nursery (as a future project)
- b) Reviewed deliverables
 - i) Paul:
 - (1) Call ABC Pest Control about rat droppings- Not from rats; geckos
 - (2) Replace burnt-out light bulbs in Youth Building- In progress
 - (3) Finish patio staining- In progress
 - ii) Christine:
 - (1) Fix exterior door in Christian Ed. building- Done, new handle at no cost
 - (2) Service call about the lights on the church sign- Scheduled
 - (3) Collect weather stripping for doors- Done
 - iii) Bill & Tony:
 - (1) Continue tree trimming- Done
- c) New issues:
 - i) Electrical problems with outdoor outlets- Schedule electrician visit
 - ii) Budget review- Some expenses look like they could be for Administration
 - iii) Outdoor Christmas décor- Limited

2. Deliverables

- Chip:
 - Get estimate for cutting 2-4 dead trees
- Christine:
 - Schedule home inspection
- Paul:
 - Continue patio staining
 - Meet with tree trimmer and electrician
 - Review budget with staff

Stewardship and Endowment

The Stewardship Committee continued to support Mission Freedom Appeal through Leadership and the Invitation team and the early gifts team. We will still be working on follow-up in late Dec and January. We will meet in January to start the planning for the Spring Stewardship effort!

Worship and Music

The Worship & Music ministries had their most active month of the year in December 2019. The altar guild assisted with setup and upkeep of decorations and banners for Advent & Christmas, and the music ministry had several musical offerings for our congregation and community. Cantata Sunday was a huge success, well attended, and melded wonderfully with the Mission Freedom event that morning. We were invited by the composer of the cantata to participate in a choral workshop in Dallas at the end of February! The music ministry collaborated with the Outreach committee on 12/15 to carol at Harbor Chase Assisted Living down the street, and later that evening we sang at the Dallas Arboretum in the Christmas Village (by invitation). The Praise Ensemble sang at their first Christmas Eve service and was well received, making this the first Christmas Eve service to have participation and leadership by 4 music ensembles (5 counting the chamber orchestra before worship). The Worship & Music Committee and ministries are so grateful for the congregation and council's support and encouragement.

Youth

Gary said that Advent season dinners went really well, with growing participation each week. He feels they were very successful. Confirmation and HS youth group are both running again as of this week (Jan. 6). Kelcey believes Gary is still planning on a meeting to get interest for the Youth committee this month.