

Notes from the Pathfinders Gathering August 14, 2019

Present: Joanna Elletson, Gloria Lasher, Bette McAmbley, Lisa McPherson, Rachel O'Carroll, Jen Rossey, Rebecca Taylor

Here are some highlights from the relaxed gathering on the Rosseys' deck:

- Cherish the Children will begin with Moments on Target during the outdoor worship service on September 15th!
- The possible involvement with Love, Inc. and the prison mentoring ministry is now on the back burner.
- The threshold choir (SOUL Serenade) is up and running... er, singing! Lisa and Jen both expressed interest in being added to the list – yea! Fran Leto has taken the lead in organizing the ensembles as needed. The first referral from Hospice came in on the 13th so the word is out!
- It was mentioned that the “Washing Warren” idea needed to be resurrected, although by taking a small step to begin with! What happened next was a full-out explosion of the Holy Spirit!! Here is what is to be presented to Session for approval:
 - Teams would be on hand at a local laundromat (or two) on a specific date (or two) to distribute bags containing Tide pods, quarters (or tokens), and a small card with an uplifting quote on it.
 - The legwork would be done through agencies such as DHS and EOC to identify persons in need of such services; a notecard-sized invitation would be given out to candidates identifying the date(s) and location(s) where free support would be offered; recipients would bring the card to the laundromat in order to receive the bag of goodies.
 - Rather than asking the Session for financial support, a collection would be received on consecutive Sundays prior to the date(s) of the bag distribution. Empty Tide containers will be the receptacles for quarters, much like the soup cans for Souper Bowl of Caring donations.
 - Bags will be assembled in advance and might even be given out some Thursday to Sharing Place guests!
 - The name for this new ministry will be Tide Together!
 - October has been set for the launch of this ministry, possibly a Tuesday evening and/or Saturday morning.

Other discussion was held about participating in the Farmers' Market next season in order for the church to have a presence there again. Baking could be done in advance by teams at the church. Handiwork could be solicited. The church van could be utilized so a tent would not need to be set up and taken down.

There was also conversation about intentionally inviting and including others in the Pathfinders gatherings. It is hoped that by gathering in homes rather than at the church it will be more relaxed and conducive to new participation. If there are supplies to work with at the next gathering, some of the Tide Together bags may be assembled!

NEXT GATHERING FOR CONVERSATION: Tuesday, September 10th, 2019 at 6:00 PM at the home of Lisa McPherson (906 Madison Avenue – the big gold house). Refreshments will be provided!