

Church and Society
Meeting Minutes
February 18, 2007

Present: Penny Burns, Mark Hobzek, Dave Lienert, Becky Schultz

Volunteering:

The Volunteering Meeting held on 1/22/07 and facilitated by Dave Lienert was well-attended. Twenty four people attended and eleven people shared their volunteering experiences and available opportunities. Notes from that volunteering meeting are included at the end of the minutes for this meeting.

Dave will initiate a monthly volunteer effort. It will probably be on a Saturday morning for 3-4 hours. Penny will submit an article for our 'News to be Used' page in the Good Word to promote this. Penny suggested the name 'CAST' (Church and Society volunteer Team)!

Coffee in the Parlor discussions:

Future topics considered were:

- Global Warming
- Dependency on Foreign Oil/Oil Alternatives
- Stem Cell Research
- Organ Donation
- Teaching Children about Sexual Behavior
- Online Communities
- Offshoring/Outsourcing Jobs
- Abortion / Pro-Choice vs. Pro-Life
- Exporting Democracy
- Faith and Science (Intelligent Design (ID) vs. Evolution)
- Cost of Health Care (importing drugs from Canada)
- Walmart
- Iraq War
- Military Draft
- Minimum Wage
- Death Penalty/Capital Punishment
- Living Wills/POA
- HIV/AIDs and the church's role in awareness and prevention. Consider Penny's friend, Mary Soirefman, as a guest for this topic.
- Pedophiles

The committee decided that it may be better to schedule out topics just 3 months at a time rather than scheduling the rest of the year. The thought was that new topics may arise that would be more timely. The next 3 months discussion topics will be:

March 5: Topic is What Age do We Stop Driving? Doug Farling will facilitate.

April 2: Global Warming. Alan Scheufler will facilitate

May 7: The Military Draft. Mark Hobzek will facilitate. We may want to consider asking someone from the military to join us as well (Janet Klekner's son??).

Recycling:

This effort at BUMC has been resumed. Pastor Karen and Cliff Thielman have been very supportive. Several articles have been published in both the Good Word and church bulletins. Recycling boxes are located in Pastor Karen’s office. Garbage cans in the kitchen are clearly marked and those using the kitchen are actively participating in recycling.

Our next meeting will be Sunday, March 11between services.

Notes from the BUMC Volunteering Meeting held 1/22/07

Dave Lienert hosted the meeting organized by the Church and Society committee. He explained the purpose of the meeting was two-fold. Folks from the congregation who already volunteer could share their volunteer experience, and people who want to volunteer but don’t know where to start could learn about the myriad opportunities available to them and how to get involved.

Dave asked Pastor Karen to offer an opening prayer.

Twenty four people attended the meeting held on Monday, 6:30 to 7:30. Eleven people shared their volunteering experience and opportunities with the group.

1. Mary Kotnik: Always looking for volunteers (both men and women) to assist with providing memorial service support. These volunteers are needed with short notice. Mary needs people to bake (finger food). Cookies can be made a few days early, labeled and left in the church freezer. Volunteers are also needed to set up before the memorial service (table clothes, preparing food trays, etc), serving, and clean up. Also needed is someone to run the dish washer. Volunteers are also needed to wash linens within 3 days and make phone calls to get other volunteers. Anyone interested in helping with ANY of these tasks may contact Mary Kotnik at 330-467-4834.

2. Emily Vincent: Cleveland Food Bank (CFB). Serves 6 counties and provides 58,000 meals/day. They need volunteers to sort/repack/organize food. Shifts are 2 hours during the day or night and Saturday mornings. Other help is needed to make breakfast/lunch bags and to prepare hot meals in the community kitchen. You can sign up online (clevelandfoodbank.org) or call the volunteer services coordinator at 216-738-2053.

3. Mark Vincent: Brookside Center. Always looking for food donations. They receive some donations (mostly starches) from the Cleveland Food Bank. Mark suggested BUMC volunteers donate protein items such as peanut butter and canned tuna or chicken. They are also looking for meals in a box and clothing donations. All donations can be deposited in the bin in Fellowship Hall. Mark takes donations from BUMC to Brookside weekly. Brookside could also use additional volunteers to help with GED assistance, bilingual lessons, developing job skills/helping with a job search, and helping with the

summer garden program. You can volunteer online at wsem.org or call the volunteer coordinator (Heidi Bonness, at 216-749-4295.

4. Ted Lux and Ruth McDonel: Human Services in Brecksville. Volunteers are needed to work the front desk working with the paid staff. Other opportunities include working in the food pantry two hours a month, delivering Meals on Wheels, and drivers to take residents to medical appointments. There is also a need for experienced cooks who can prepare a meal for up to 120 people at least one Thursday a month. Retired nurses and doctors are needed to perform blood pressure screenings every Monday. A handout from the Brecksville Human Services Center is available with more details describing each of these volunteer opportunities. Contact the Brecksville Human Services Center at 440-526-2499.

5. Doug Huth: Kiwanis. Includes both men and women. Membership is \$150. Goal is helping communities and people with an emphasis on children. Volunteers participate in reading in the elementary schools, helping out at Chippewa Place (independent senior living), making 1400 Easter baskets annually and assisting with the Santa's sleigh program. Many volunteers are also needed for their annual Horse Show, a major fund-raising event which is held the first Sunday in August. Anyone interested in learning more about all the activities and groups this group supports or becoming involved with the Kiwanis Club of Brecksville should contact Doug Huth at 330-467-3046.

6. Judy McCrodden: Brecksville Center for the Arts (BCA). Looking for community residents to be trustees. Also need volunteers for office help, setting up and breaking down their gallery shows, manning the BCA booth at Home Days and working the Heartfelt Holiday in November at the Brecksville Community Center (2 hours shifts). Contact Judy McCrodden at 440-546-9127 for more information.

7. Lisa Drew: Habitat for Humanity. Volunteers do NOT have to know construction. Both skilled and unskilled workers are needed. Volunteers can help in an office if they don't want to work at a home site. They are always looking for donations for their ReStore (will take old kitchen cabinets in good condition is remodel kitchen for example). People can also volunteer for a one-time event such as a tool drive. For more information or to volunteer, go to the website gchfh.org, email to volunteering@clevelandhabitat.org or call 216-429-1299, ext. 226.

8. Dave Lienert: Business Volunteers Unlimited. This organization offers personalized one-on-one service and online matching services to individuals and groups based on their skills and interest. You can get more information at businessvolunteers.org or speak with a referral specialist at 216-736-7711.

9. Kay AuWerter: Cleveland Diabetes Association. Volunteers raise funds so kids can go to camp. Volunteers are needed to count laps for the swim-a-thon in April (third weekend). Contact Kay AuWerter at 440-546-5382 for more information.

10. Craig Czarnota: BUMC Visitation Team under the direction of Pastor Libby Kuntz. Volunteers are needed to visit people who are homebound to help them keep connected to the church and congregation. Volunteers work during whatever time is good for them. Would like volunteers to make at least two 20-30 minutes calls twice per month. Volunteers are also needed to visit parishioners in the hospital.

11. Craig Czarnota for Les Buttolph: Kairos Ministry. This is an international prison ministry program. 8-10 weeks of training is required. They visit men in prison to let them know God still cares about them. Also need volunteers to bake cookies taken to the prisoners. More detailed information can be obtained from Les Buttolph at 216-573-5843 or Craig Czarnota at 440-838-1331.

12. Janet Kleckner: Project Learn. Adult literacy program. Provides 4 levels of training (1-beginners; 2-pre-GED; 3-ESL (English as second language); 4- 1-on-1 tutoring). They are looking for people who could teach 3 hours/week. If you can't commit that amount of time, then they can use help with administering tests and practice GEDs. Training is required for some efforts. Contact Janet Kleckner at 440-526-2386 for more information.

Dave noted the Church and Society committee hopes to make this information available to the entire congregation on the BUMC website.