

Gulf Cove United Methodist Church

Education Meeting

February 13, 2012

In attendance: John Furtado, Carol Teague, Rick Starck and Holly Woods.

Meeting was opened by John Furtado by lighting the Christ candle and with prayer.

Prayer concerns/joys: The life of the church in terms of attendance, new members, giving, participation have all been going well this year and praise God for this. We also pray for a good turnout at the upcoming Church conference on February 19th.

Vacation Bible School

We agreed to have this event take place the week of June 25th. It has not yet been decided whether this would be a day or evening session. We don't have a coordinator so we would either need someone to step up and fulfill that role, or have the individual group leaders be responsible for everything they need; or, we can have an evening class when Holly is available. The theme is "Operation Overboard" from Cokesbury. Starter kit and supplies have been ordered and received and some additional items will be purchased from LTM party store on Highway 41, Port Charlotte. A e-mail note was sent to many who participated last year to explain our situation and seek guidance. There will be a note in this week's bulletin as well as information in the next newsletter. More meetings to follow.

Easter Egg Hunt

Sarah Carter will coordinate this effort and materials have been ordered and received. Volunteers will be needed to help get everything together. **Please note that this will take place on Saturday, March 31st, 2012.**

Heifer International

As we did last year, we will be seeking donations for this very worthwhile effort during Lent. Although we do not have a coordinator, I have spoken with Irv Hopkins with respect to the older youth participating.

Child Protection Policy

Irv Hopkins, Michelle Channing, Holly Woods and Doreen Alvarez attended a recent training session at Grace United Methodist Church in Cape Coral. The policy had been updated in 2009. The material we used previously was extracted from the conference guidelines dated 2003. I have updated our material based on the 2009 guidelines and Irv Hopkins has a copy for review. Once the revisions are deemed adequate, we can begin training our Sunday School teachers and others that interface with our youth.

Lenten Studies

The conference has a series for Lent titled "Journey for Hope" which we have elected to use for our small group bible study. This will also be the theme for our sermons during Lent. There is a signup sheet on the back table of the sanctuary for those who want to participate. **We need to identify Host families.**

Sunday School

Youth and adult Sunday School classes are going well with no majors issue reported. Kim Fisackerly will be starting a new class on Spiritual gifts on February 15th, 2012 at 6:30 PM in the sanctuary.

Video cameras are now installed in all the classrooms except for portable 201. WE have a few problems with cameras or signals that are being worked out.

Child Care

At the last Administrative Council meeting a Mr. Kuntz from Faith Lutheran Church (Sarasota) talked to the group regarding the success of their program and some guidelines for us to follow if we choose to start a facility of our own. Rick Starck is looking into initial regulations and it appears that Charlotte County does not have policies as does Sarasota county so we would fall under the State regulations. There is much more work to be done before we're in a position to decide if we want to pursue a child care center.

Carol Teague closed our meeting with prayer.

Respectively submitted by John E. Furtado, February 14, 2012

RED	Lenten Study series - need to identify host families
	Education Chair
YELLOW	VBS
GREEN	Child protection policy updated and ready for review.
	Video system installed, being de-bugged