

Holy Spirit Church

Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes January 17, 2010

Approved at February 23, 2010 Meeting

Attendees: Father Simmons, Carmen Arroyo, Gary Beck, Susan Businsky, Christopher Coffey, Debbie Fischer, Carol Garitty, Marge Hoffa, Anne O'Connor, Shawn Sharpeta, Tom Stoll, Sister Susanne Bunn.

Absent: Peggy Doty, Clotilde Obo

Gary and Ann Beck graciously opened their home for today's meeting, held between the morning Masses.

Sister Susanne opened the meeting with a prayer.

Minutes from the last meeting, October 2009, had previously been electronically approved by council members, since there were no meetings held in November and December. They have been posted on the website (www.hspiritchurch.org) and in the book in the church narthex.

Old Business: Father Simmons reported that the Hibernian Ladies, who presented the Celtic Concert at Holy Spirit on November 29th, contributed \$2,200 to the Harford County FCCAU (Faith Communities and Civic Agencies United) to support their programs on behalf of the needy and homeless.

Committee updates:

Carol reported for the Social Outreach Committee that the numbers of clients at the Homeless Shelter and the Day Shelter have pretty much remained steady for the last quarter of the year. At our next meeting, Carol will have a copy of the annual report of Sharing Table activities. The most heart-warming news from Erma Protokowicz, who coordinated the Giving Tree and the Mitten Box, was that although the packages for the schoolchildren as well as the mitten box were heavily smoke-damaged in the December fire, they were all able to be salvaged, cleaned and re-wrapped and delivered to the children before close of school for the holidays. Thanks to the efforts of a number of parishioners who inventoried the gift contents and packaged them up again!

The December council cookie social was held at Peggy Doty's on December 20th, despite the snowstorm. Although only five of us were there, it was a fun event and Peggy had cookies to distribute at the hospital on Christmas Eve.

Sister Susanne reported that the Education Committee, at its last meeting, recommended that the book "Dreams and Visions – Pastoral Planning for Lifelong Faith Formation" be purchased for members of that committee and the pastoral council members. The books were purchased and given to all committee and council members. We should read Chapter One and discuss it at our next meeting. Carmen, who is also a member of the Education Committee, has volunteered to prepare a PowerPoint overview of the book for us. Carmen talked about having a speaker after Stations on the Mondays of Lent on coping with disasters. Father Simmons gave Carmen a listing of speaking events coming up in other parishes that we might consider having here at Holy Spirit.

Ann, on behalf of the Ways and Means Committee, presented an idea for a parish fundraiser of personalized cookbooks – parishioners contribute their own recipes – which would net HSC a 40% profit from books sold. The idea was well received by the council, and Father asked Anne to summarize the details and bring that to the next meeting. Shawn also mentioned that Yankee Candle sales are a good fundraiser.

Sister Susanne said that Prince of Peace is having a Longaberger Basket-Vera Bradley Handbag Bingo on February 14th and said that profits from that would probably go towards new dividers in their hall for Faith Formation classes for their children and ours. Contact Sister Susanne at 410-679-5912 to purchase tickets.

Marge reported that the Bull and Oyster Roast in November was very successful, and we netted \$1,800 which we split with Prince of Peace. That led to discussion about having this year's Spaghetti Dinner-Dance at Prince of Peace and possibly splitting the profit with them. Father Simmons said we could invite Prince of Peace parishioners to attend and should be able to accommodate everyone who wanted to come as their hall holds 250 people. We would not need to split the profits. Marge said that DJ's Danny Jahn and Rich Bennett have

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both offered their services free for three more fundraisers, very generous offers. Chris suggested that we have two events in 2010 in addition to the Spaghetti Dinner – a Bull and Oyster Roast in the fall and a Crab Feast in the spring. Father urged that we support the Knights' fish fry in Lent, and he recommended that committees get event dates locked in at Prince of Peace before their own calendar fills up.

New Business

Father Simmons mentioned that the Archbishop's Annual Appeal is now going on, and most parishioners have received mailings from the Archdiocese requesting their pledges in support of the appeal. Our goal this year is \$22,000 and Father asked that we respond as generously as possible. Holy Spirit will receive a percentage of the funds pledged, half of which will go to St. Elizabeth Parish (Fr. Dausch's old parish), and the other half will go toward the rebuilding. Also, the Hibernians have given us \$500 and a "friend" of the Knights has given \$100.

Father said that the various offices of the Archdiocese are working with us on insurance matters, permits and the like. We will reconfigure the existing front of the building and will rebuild the hall, perhaps squaring off the "footprint," thus enlarging the hall. Father will be meeting with an architect this week regarding the plans to see just what is feasible. He mentioned a few ideas being considered; however, he is not sure yet just what will be covered by insurance and what we will have to contribute from our savings or fundraisers.

Carmen suggested that consideration be given to a good electronic media setup in the hall, for classroom use, for meetings, for presentations, etc. We talked a bit about the need for more and closer parking around the hall, and Father said that if we increase the size of the building, county law stipulates we will have to have more parking. All suggestions are welcomed – please send them to the church secretary, Kathy, at hspiritchurch@aol.com. Kathy will see that Father gets them.

Chris has a number of furniture items from his family to be donated to the church, but there is a need for storage space for them until the building is completed. (dining table and 8 chairs, lazy Susan, 2-piece hutch/buffet, loveseat, living room chair and a coffee table) Father said someone offered a storage pod to us and that if Christ contacts Kathy, she can give him the name of the company that did.

Next meeting: The next meeting will be on **Tuesday, February 23 at 7:00 P.M.** at the home of Chris Coffey, in Abingdon. Chris will send out address and directions.

The March meeting will be at the home of Susan Businsky on Tuesday, March 23 at 7:00 P.M.

The April meeting will be at the home of Tom Stoll on Tuesday, April 20, at 7:00 P.M.

The May meeting will be at Prince of Peace Church on Friday, May 18, at 7:00 P.M. courtesy Sister Susanne.

Father Simmons closed the meeting with a prayer.

Submitted by Carol Garitty 1/18/10

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Approved at the March 23rd meeting.

Attendees: Father Simmons, Carmen Arroyo, Gary Beck, Susan Businsky, Debbie Fischer, Carol Garitty, Marge Hoffa, Anne O'Connor, Shawn Sharpeta, and Tom Stoll..

Absent: Chris Coffey, Peggy Doty, Clotilde Obo, Sister Susanne

Father Simmons opened the meeting with a prayer.

Minutes from the last meeting, January 17, 2010 were approved. They have been posted on the website (www.hspiritchurch.org) and in the book in the church narthex.

Old Business: The Ways and Means Committee will meet at 1:00 on 2/24/10. The committee will discuss the cookbook fundraiser. It looks as if the cookbook price will be kept at \$10. The family dinner dance will take place on 4/11/10 at Prince of Peace. The dance will last from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. The prices have increased to \$9 for adults and \$7 for children over 5. Possible dates for the Crab feast were discussed (Saturday after the 4th of July is possible). The bull and oyster roast was brought up momentarily.

Committee updates:

Carol reported for the Social Outreach Committee that the money being donated to the Sharing Table has decreased while the food donations have increased. Carol provided a copy of the annual report of Sharing Table activities.

Education Committee Carmen presented a PowerPoint presentation on Part One of "Dreams and Visions – Pastoral Planning for Lifelong Faith Formation." The committee listened and discussed various sections of the book.

Much praise was given to Sister Susanne and the CCD teachers for the job they are doing during this difficult time. Education classes are not held in the most ideal situation, but they continue on as planned.

Carmen also reported on the status of our guest speaker. Dr. Pat Fosarelli, an accomplished author and pediatrician at Johns Hopkins University, who will speak to the parish on Monday March 15th. This is a Monday evening. The talk will last about 45 minutes and occur directly after the Stations of the Cross. Dr. Fosarelli usually writes children's books about spirituality, but she will be talking to our parish about our recent disaster. She will talk about how we face the problems of day to day life. Flyers will be sent to other local parishes to join us.

New Business

As earlier stated, Ann spoke on behalf of the Ways and Means Committee. The committee will discuss the sale of cookbooks for a fundraiser. Fundraising talk brought about a discussion about the new church hall. The main concern is how we will raise money for the new building. The possibilities of pledges and drives were discussed. Council members have been approached by parishioners about assisting. These people should be referred to Father. As of this moment, nothing has been decided. A committee made up of Father Simmons, John Crossin, Ed Stricker, Kathy Meneghini and Veronica Hernandez-Shepard will meet with the architect. This meeting is not planned until after Easter.

Next meeting: The next meeting will be on **Tuesday, March 23 at 7:00 P.M.** at the home of Susan Businsky, in Bel Air. Directions will be sent later with a meeting reminder.

The April meeting will be at the home of Tom Stoll, in Joppatowne, on Tuesday, April 20, at 7:00 P.M.
The May meeting will be at Prince of Peace Church on Friday, May18, at 7:00 P.M. courtesy Sister Susanne.

Father Simmons closed the meeting with a prayer.

Submitted by: Shawn Sharpeta 2/27/2010

Holy Spirit Church

Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes March 23, 2010

Approved at April meeting

Attendees: Father Simmons, Carmen Arroyo, Susan Businsky, Chris Coffey, Peggy Doty, Debbie Fischer, Carol Garitty, Marge Hoffa, Clotilde Obo, Shawn Sharpeta, and Tom Stoll..

Absent: Gary Beck, Anne O'Connor, Sister Susanne

The meeting was held at the home of Susan Businsky. Thank you for your gracious hospitality!

Father Simmons opened the meeting with a prayer.

Minutes from the last meeting, February 23, 2010, were approved.

Guest Presentation

Kenneth E. Proctor, of the architectural firm of Skorpa Design Studio Architects, showed us the floor plan and the elevation drawing for rebuilding the parish center. The plan includes a complete renovation of the original portion still standing, as well as construction of a new and larger parish center, to include a hall with larger capacity than previously, classrooms, kitchen, bathrooms, and incorporating all HVAC equipment. Council members had all questions answered, and gave their approval to the proposed building. The next step in the process is for the Archdiocese to review and approve the plans. Concurrently, the architects will be consulting structural, mechanical, electrical and plumbing engineers. The Building Committee will meet again after Easter, and the architect will speak after one of the late Masses. The architect's estimate of cost could be \$2 million. It is not known yet how much insurance will cover; however, Father Simmons said there will no doubt be a building fund drive to help cover the costs.

Updates and New Activities

Marge reported that tickets for the Family Dinner Dance, to be held at Prince of Peace on April 11th, are now on sale. They are first being offered to the Faith Formation families and will go on sale in the church after Masses this coming Sunday. The event is being offered as a "fun-raiser" with limited requests going out for sponsors and donations. Proceeds will go to youth activities.

Marge also reported that a Flea Market will be held on May 1st, in the parking lot of Holy Spirit. Sellers will purchase space for car and table, and that money will go to the church. Sellers may either donate the money they make, or keep it for themselves. Wanda LeVasseur and Mary Smith are in charge of this activity.

The Ways and Means Committee has decided, based on past experience, not to attempt to sell cookbooks. The cutlery discussed at a prior meeting can be purchased online.

Carmen reported for the Education Committee that the guest speaker, Dr. Pat Fosarelli, following Stations on March 15th, was a successful event. She suggested that Dr. Fosarelli could be available to do a 3-4 hour retreat for the council in the fall, perhaps with both old and new members.

Marge said there have been inquiries about having a prayer line at Holy Spirit. Father Simmons said he will put a book in the narthex where people can sign up, and he will explain it at Masses.

Carol gave updates on Social Outreach activities. Sharing Table numbers of guests remains pretty much the same – around 100 each time. Erma Protokowicz, coordinator, said she always would welcome new helpers who will commit to be there to help in the kitchen, setup and serve. Erma also has a group of people who prepare casseroles to take to the Day Shelter once a month. Ginny Lemken, coordinator for the Homeless Shelter volunteers, who go on the 31st of a month, said her group is currently getting donations from businesses for a basket to be raffled off at the shopping center. No further details available yet. The next date for Holy Spirit at the Sharing Table is Saturday, May 15th. Currently, there are over 135 parishioners engaged in various activities and committees in Holy Spirit.

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Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes March 23, 2010

Approved at April meeting

Chris suggested having parishioners invited to stay after Mass, for socialization and to get commitments for people to work on committees. He also suggested a second collection after every Mass. Father Simmons said he is putting off additional collections until we know more what the new building will cost, as well as having various activities designated as "fundraisers." We may have to have pledges from parishioners to raise the money for the building and he does not want to "nickel and dime" people in the meantime. He would like everything that might be considered a fundraiser to be passed by him first, so that we save our efforts for paying the mortgage on the new building.

Chris also mentioned that if you are giving to the Archbishop's Appeal online, you have to be sure to designate Holy Spirit Church to receive its 25% share. Father said he believes that most people have now made their pledges or donations either in response to the letters from the Archdiocese, or from the in-pew appeals

Carol gave an update on Faith Formation activities for Sister Susanne. Classes continue to be well attended at Prince of Peace on Sunday mornings. Seven second-graders are preparing for First Holy Communion at Holy Spirit on April 18th. There was a fun and informative retreat, "Jesus Day," earlier this month, attended by children from both Holy Spirit and Prince of Peace. And a brief Enrollment Ceremony was held during Mass for the parents of these children to reaffirm their commitment to their spiritual growth. Early in March, a retreat was held at the Mission Helpers Center for our tenth graders who would receive Confirmation on March 21st at the Basilica. Thanks to dedicated catechists and parents, our children have been well prepared for receiving these sacraments.

The St. Jude's Bike-a-Thon will be on Sunday, April 25th, at Holy Spirit. Sponsor sheets will be made available in the narthex. Gail Wilson is coordinating this activity.

Sister Susanne is considering this may be the time for a change of textbooks because the publisher of current texts says they are going out of print and prices will rise for any that are left. There is a whole process involved in changing textbooks that includes the pastor, the catechists and the parents. More to come about that.

Marge talked about the end-of-year evaluation form that has been e-mailed to members and asked them to complete them and bring them to the April meeting.

Marge asked if there will be people from RCIA being baptized at the Easter Vigil, and Father said there will not be this time.

Carmen said she will be e-mailing "Seven Steps to Improve Spirituality" out to council members.

Father Simmons asked council members if they would be willing to stay on for one more year to be a part of the whole rebuilding effort. If there is anyone who does not want to go for another term, please contact Father Simmons, so we can look for new people to get involved.

Father Simmons closed the meeting with a prayer.

The April meeting will be at the home of Tom Stoll, in Joppatowne, on Tuesday, April 20, at 7:00 P.M. Tom's address and directions will be sent out prior to the meeting.

The May meeting will be at Prince of Peace Church on Friday, May 18, at 7:00 P.M. courtesy of Sister Susanne.

Submitted by: Carol Garitty 3/26/10

Holy Spirit Church

Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes April 20, 2010

Approved at May meeting

Attendees: Carmen Arroyo, Gary Beck, Susan Businsky, Peggy Doty, Debbie Fischer, Carol Garitty, Marge Hoffa, Clotilde Obo, Shawn Sharpeta, Tom Stoll and Sister Susanne Bunn

Absent: Father Simmons, Chris Coffey, Anne O'Connor

The meeting was held at the home of Tom and Cathy Stoll. Thank you for your gracious hospitality!

Marge opened the meeting with a prayer.

Minutes from the last meeting, March 23, 2010, were approved.

Updates and Reports

Social Outreach – No report. Carol will provide quarterly updates from them. The next date for Holy Spirit at the Sharing Table is Saturday, May 15th.

Youth Activities – Debbie reported there was no meeting in December, and Veronica was away for about 6 weeks. Debbie will contact Veronica.

Family Dinner Dance – Marge reported there was a much smaller turnout this year than last year – about 100 tickets sold vs. 200 last year. It was an enjoyable event for all who did attend, and most people stayed until the end. The food was very good, and the DJs – Rich Bennett and Danny Jahn – did a great job. We talked about possible reasons for low attendance: location (possibly some people are just reluctant to drive over to Prince of Peace), ticket cost, starting time of 3:00 instead of 4:00 as last year's was.

Parish Hall – Marge reported we are waiting for the architects to come and present the plans to the parish, once Archdiocesan approval has been obtained.

Flea Market/Yard Sale – Scheduled for Saturday, May 1st, in the parking lot at Holy Spirit, from 8-12. Further information is in the bulletin.

Cutlery Sales – Peggy and Susan said they had talked with Anne, and there will be no online sales as originally discussed. (Update 4/25 – I saw Anne at Mass and she mentioned that Mary Smith, Ways and Means Committee, will be handling the cutlery sales.)

Bike-a-Thon – Scheduled for Sunday, April 25th, at 1:00. Pledge sheets are in the narthex; Father Simmons has a sheet there if anyone would like to sponsor him.

End-of-Year Checklists for Council members – They have been sent via e-mail to all members. Please complete them and turn them in at the May meeting. (Please send Carol an online copy.)

Summer/Fall Social Activities – We decided that we would not pursue having a crab feast this summer, but would stay with having a Bull and Oyster Roast on November 7th at the Prince of Peace Hall. Marge said there will be no charge to us for use of the hall. Tom Stoll agreed to chair the event. Council members agreed to assist him and we will contact committee members from last year's successful event to see who's interested. Sister Susanne requested that we keep Prince of Peace's secretary, Kathye, in the loop. (We already have booked the hall for November 7th.)

Education Committee – Carmen gave a Power Point presentation of Chapter 4 of "Dreams and Visions," which addresses the first four dimensions of parish structure: Worship and Liturgy, The Pastoral Care of the Soul; Buildings, Financial Management and Budgets; Education, Sacraments and Faith Formation.

Sister Susanne noted the Education Committee will be meeting next Thursday.

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Approved at May meeting

Other Discussion – We spent some time talking about past volunteer socials, committee fairs, tri-folds, and other things that have been done and could be done to keep parishioners involved and keep the council up-to-date. We agreed that a good idea might be having one committee “point of contact” attend each council meeting. They would tell us what they are doing, then we would follow-up to that up with a write-up in the bulletin and having someone stand by that committee’s tri-fold in the narthex and a sign-up sheet, to entice new members.

Nominations for Vice President of the Council – Gary Beck agreed to have his name submitted as a nominee for the office to be vacated by Chris Coffey when he assumes the presidency in June.

The meeting was closed with a prayer.

Next Meeting – Friday, May 21st, at 7:00 P.M. in the Prince of Peace Hall, courtesy of Sister Susanne.

Submitted by Carol Garitty

Holy Spirit Church

Minutes of Pastoral Council Meeting May 21, 2010

Approved at June meeting

The meeting was held in the parish hall at Prince of Peace Church.

Present: Father Simmons, Peggy Doty, Clotilde Obo, Debbie Fischer, Carol Garitty, Anne O'Connor, Tom Stoll, Gary Beck, Carmen Arroyo, Marge Hoffa, Chris Coffey, Susan Businsky

Absent: Shawn Sharpeta, Sister Susanne

Opening

Father Simmons opened the meeting with a prayer. He reported that Sister Susanne is recovering at the Mission Helpers' Mother House from a heart attack suffered while she was on vacation in Rehobeth. She is doing well and expects to be back next week.

Prior Minutes

Minutes from the April meeting were approved.

Committee Updates

Carol reported for Sister Susanne that she is considering adding a parent and a catechist to the Education Committee. Chris reported that he has attempted to contact Erma regarding the Sharing Table. Final figures for the Bike-A-Thon are not in yet; the final report is to be sent in by May 31st.

Parish Hall Update

Father Simmons gave an update on the status of the rebuilding of the parish hall. He attended a meeting with Bishop Madden and others, including Matt Regan, our Coordinator who is helping us understand the process. Father said he (Father) stressed several times at the meeting that he wants to stay within the amount the insurance will cover so we don't have to pay additional money or have another mortgage to pay for. So, the prior plan as shown to the council in March is out; it was an ambitious reach, beyond what insurance is expected to pay. Father hasn't been given any hard figures yet as to what insurance will pay.

The Archdiocese agreed to work within the perspective of staying within the money available from insurance. We were initially told that the front of the building is salvageable; however, now they say the joists and roof are not adequate for Code (because of the fire and the weight of snow on the roof), so it would be cheaper to tear it

Holy Spirit Church

Minutes of Pastoral Council Meeting May 21, 2010

Approved at June meeting

down and rebuild.

Father Simmons said that the Harford Catholic Assembly, which is in its third and final year, places strong emphasis on parishes sharing personnel and facilities.

There are several alternative plans to be considered at this point. First, the plan as originally shown to the council; a second plan with offices, classrooms and a small meeting hall and kitchen (though not a “commercial” kitchen as first envisioned); and a third that would have an Education Building at Holy Spirit, with Prince of Peace children coming to Holy Spirit for Faith Formation classes and our using their parish hall for social events. The latter plan would meet HCA’s goal of drawing congregations together.

There is a meeting of the HCA next Tuesday, May 25th, from 7 to 9 PM, at St Mary Magdalen Mission, on Churchville Road, for anyone who is interested in going.. Usually, it’s Father Simmons, Kathy and Sister Susanne, and pastoral council presidents and vice presidents. Anne has been attending, as well as Ed Stricker, from the parish. At the meeting, they will give a recap of what they have been doing, and talk about sharing resources and personnel.

Back to the update on the building. Father said we had 8,500 sq. ft. in the old building, and the first proposal was for 10,500 sq. ft., so we definitely would have to pay extra beyond the insurance. The Archdiocese said that the insurance people didn’t agree to an additional claim for the snow damage; they will just cover it as sub-par for Code. Father suggested we could go back to a building of less than 8,500 sq. ft., and pay for a really good building. He is hoping to have some hard figures in the next few days regarding the insurance.

Both pastors – Father Simmons and Father Ward, from Prince of Peace, would have to agree on the sharing of personnel and resources. We would have to take a good look at the scheduling of events for both parishes.

Everything is still in the talking stage at this point. Father Simmons reiterated that he would like to have the new building designed to be within the amount insurance would pay, and we could raise funds, if needed, for extras inside the building. The estimate for completion of whatever is erected is 2012.

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Approved at June meeting

Other

End-of-term checklists were due to be turned in today, but there are a few that are still to come in. Please turn them in as soon as possible, preferably before the next meeting (they can be e-mailed to Carol, who will make copies for Father Simmons and Chris).

There was a suggestion made that lectors could read announcements about five minutes before Mass, since apparently not everyone reads the bulletin. Father said he would preach “read the Bulletin” instead.

Anne asked about selling bricks for the walkway from the new hall to the church. Donors’ names would be printed on the brick, regardless of the amount donated, so it wouldn’t be “selling” bricks. Father Simmons said to get a committee to look into it and report to the council.

We talked at the last meeting about having committee chairs, or POCs, come to council meetings, but that was overlooked for this meeting. Tom asked about when to start meetings for the Bull Roast Committee, which he will be chairing, and Father suggested he put a notice in the bulletin reaching out to get interested new people on the committee.

Carmen gave an excellent summary presentation on Chapter 5 of “Dreams and Visions.”

We talked about the need for an active Evangelization Committee. Dave Micili has been unable to keep up his work because of illnesses. If anyone is interested in working on this committee, please contact Father Simmons.

Marge was presented with gifts from the council as thanks for her contributions as vice president, and as president this past council year. She turned the “gavel” over to Chris Coffey, new president. Gary Beck is the new vice president.

We talked about having a retreat of some kind either for the council or the parish as a whole. We will discuss that at a later date. Meanwhile, there are notices in our bulletins regarding retreats sponsored by other parishes that we would be welcome to attend.

Father talked about having small faith communities in the parish, where groups of

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Aproved at June meeting

interested people meet regularly about faith sharing, and reinforce each other. There are resources to be had for these groups, especially at some of the larger parishes such as St. Margaret's or St. Ignatius.

Father Simmons said he will be attending an annual retreat for priests on June 7th – 12th.

And Father mentioned the Adoration on the 1st of each month; usually about 6-12 people come. That could be used to develop some faith sharing, with a short talk from Father. People who are motivated to help others usually find others who need help. He is happy to hear us talking about having retreats and hopes we will do it. Summer is an excellent time; the church is available and Father is available.

Next meeting:

The next meeting will be held on Friday, June 18th, at 6 P.M. at the home of Peggy Doty. It will be a backyard cookout. Everyone who volunteered to bring something, please contact Peggy by e-mail to let her know what you will bring. Also let Peggy know if you are bringing another person with you; they will be welcome.

Closing

Father Simmons closed the meeting with a prayer.

Notes by Carol Garitty
Council Secretary

Holy Spirit Church

Minutes of Pastoral Council Meeting June 18, 2010

Approved at August 12, 2010 meeting.

Attendees: Father Simmons, Carmen Arroyo, Gary Beck, Susan Businsky, Chris Coffey, Peggy Doty, Debbie Fischer, Carol Garitty, Marge Hoffa, Clotilde Obo, Anne O'Connor, and Sister Susanne Bunn

Guests: Mary Smith and Wanda Levasseur of the Ways and Means Committee. Brian Fischer, Brian O'Connor, Jim Hoffa, Randy Honeyman, Ann Beck, Emma Coffey, Kathy Winter

Absent: Shawn Sharpeta, Tom Stoll

June's meeting was a cookout held at Peggy Doty's home. Many thanks to Peggy and Kathy for their very generous hospitality. Everyone brought something for the meal, the weather was great, and it was an enjoyable and relaxing evening beside Peggy's pool.

Business

Father Simmons opened the meeting with a prayer.

A motion was made, and seconded, to approve the minutes of the May meeting.

Chris asked for updates or issues to be discussed from council members.

Anne gave an update on looking into parishioners purchasing bricks for the new building, either as in a walkway or perhaps a memorial garden. She was told by the company she contacted that it would be cheaper if whatever we do could be incorporated as we rebuild, not added later. At this time, though, we have no timetable for that, so will have to consider it later.

Marge commented on the Bull Roast, which will be held in November at Prince of Peace. She has spoken with Tom, who was not present, and who will chair the event. He has put a notice in the bulletin seeking people to work on the committee, and he will be calling an organizational meeting, probably in July.

Father gave an update on the progress of the rebuilding of the parish hall. Quote: "Not much progress." The Archdiocese and the insurance company are still in negotiations as to how much money we will have to rebuild with. We will have to pare back from our original plan, and stay within the amount of insurance that we are allotted. Hopefully, insurance will cover all costs and we will not have to do fund raising.

We welcomed guests Mary Smith and Wanda Levasseur, from Ways and Means Committee. Mary reported that the yard sale in the parking lot was a success and they plan to do another in the fall. They are planning to do a plant sale next spring, in a tent on the property, and might need someone to stay overnight to guard the plants. One order has been turned in already on the Rada sales, and another will be going in soon. The books are in the narthex, and you may place your order in the collection basket. Mary and Wanda wanted to get the council's opinion on having a raffle for a bushel of crabs as a fund

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Approved at August 12, 2010 meeting.

raiser this summer. They have a very reasonable price locked in on the bushel, and they would sell tickets probably for \$3 each, two for \$5. Everyone agreed that would be a great idea and that council members would take tickets to sell.

Sister Susanne gave an update on the work of the Education Committee and the subject of changing textbooks for Faith Formation. They will need volunteers, including catechists and parents, to evaluate the texts they will review. They will need a place to meet and a place to store materials, so this effort may have to wait until the parish hall is rebuilt. Sister said the committee recommends that a parent and a catechist be added to membership on the committee. The Education Committee plans to survey Holy Spirit parishioners as to their interest in topics for Adult Education and times for gathering. Sister Susanne is working on a draft survey. A committee member raised the possibility of a joint meeting of the Education Committees of Holy Spirit and Prince of Peace. Sister will consult both pastors and the Prince of Peace Education Committee.

Father Simmons commented that we don't want to overlook using the hall at Prince of Peace for events, now and maybe beyond when we have our hall rebuilt. We want to do everything we can to bring the two locales together and create a friendly climate between the two parishes. Good ideas for doing so are always welcome.

Father suggested everyone slow down their pace for the summer, rest and refresh.

Chris asked when we would like to meet again, and members agreed not to hold a meeting in July, but to meet again on Thursday, August 5th, at 7:00 P.M. at Prince of Peace. Council members are asked to bring their end-of-year checklists – those who have not yet turned them in. They will be helpful in planning for the coming year. Carol will collect them and get copies to Father Simmons, Chris and also to Marge.

Father closed the meeting with a prayer.

Again, many thanks to Peggy, and to Cathy, for putting together such an enjoyable evening.

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, August 5th, 7:00 P.M. at Prince of Peace.

Carol Garitty
Secretary

NO MEETING JULY 2010

Holy Spirit Church

Minutes of Pastoral Council Meeting August 12, 2010

Approved at 10/22/10 meeting.

The meeting was rescheduled from August 5th and was held in the parish hall at Prince of Peace Church.

Present: Father Simmons, Peggy Doty, Clotilde Obo, Debbie Fischer, Carol Garitty, Anne O'Connor, Gary Beck, Carmen Arroyo, Marge Hoffa, Susan Businsky, Sister Susanne

Absent: Chris Coffey, Shawn Sharpeta, Tom Stoll

Opening

Father Simmons opened the meeting with a prayer, and turned the meeting over to Gary Beck, Vice President.

Prior Minutes

Minutes from the June meeting were approved, with the addition of the following, which was inadvertently omitted:

Sister Susanne gave an update on the work of the Education Committee and the subject of changing textbooks for Faith Formation. They will need volunteers, including catechists and parents, to evaluate the texts they will review. They will need a place to meet and a place to store materials, so this effort may have to wait until the parish hall is rebuilt. Sister said the committee recommends that a parent and a catechist be added to membership on the committee. The Education Committee plans to survey Holy Spirit parishioners as to their interest in topics for Adult Education and times for gathering. Sister Susanne is working on a draft survey. A committee member raised the possibility of a joint meeting of the Education Committees of Holy Spirit and Prince of Peace. Sister will consult both pastors and the Prince of Peace Education Committee.

Old Business

Both Marge and Carol received an e-mail from a parishioner with a fund-raiser suggestion for Holy Spirit having to do with using an alternate source for utilities. The information was turned over to Father Simmons for his response. He did say that Holy Spirit has a very good rate already on utilities, and he doesn't believe this switch would be beneficial.

Committee Updates

RADA Sale – The fundraiser for RADA appears to have made a \$536 profit.

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Approved at 10/22/10 meeting.

Shrimp, Oyster and Bull Roast Feast Committee – In Tom Stoll’s absence, Carol reported that the committee is very energized and after just two meetings has locked in the date (Saturday, November 6), location (Prince of Peace Hall), caterer (Bill’s Seafood and Catering), DJ (“The Perfect Beat”), and the sports memorabilia silent auction. There will be a number of door prizes, as well as Instant Bingo and the Big Wheel. The committee next meets on Wednesday, August 25th, 7:00 P.M. at Prince of Peace.

Social Outreach (Homeless Shelter, Sharing Table, Giving Tree) – Carol reported on these activities, having talked with Ginny Lemken and Erma Protokowicz. Ginny said her group is soliciting donations of gift certificates from various area businesses to be raffled off at a future date in front of Redners. Currently, they have enough volunteers on the 31st of each month, but will always welcome anyone who would like to participate in the meal preparation.

Erma said that the numbers at the Sharing Table remain fairly constant, around 100 each time Holy Spirit serves there. She also welcomes anyone who would like to help with this activity. Mike Perrone sent a copy of a letter from him to all the member churches who provide the Sharing Table, along with information about the upcoming 3rd Annual Harford CROP Walk (October 9th). 75% of the money raised goes to Church World Service for worldwide hunger relief efforts, and this year, The Sharing Table has been designated the recipient of the remaining 25%. Last year’s walk raised \$10,500, which would equate to \$2,625 for the Sharing Table. Mike is sending the flyer to Kathy in the parish office to have it reproduced to include with a bulletin. For further information, call Mike on 443-910-3866 or visit the CROP Walk website at www.harfordcropwalk.org.

Erma is reluctantly stepping down from coordinating the Christmas Giving Tree, after many years. Susan, Anne and Carol expressed an interest in taking it over so the tradition will continue. Carol will contact Erma for all the details and target dates and get the volunteers together, including those who worked with Erma in the past.

Parish Hall Update – Father Simmons gave an update following an August 4th meeting with the Archdiocese. Four contractors have given estimates ranging from \$1.6 Million to \$2.2 Million. The Archdiocese is dealing with the insurance company to make decisions on the project. They tell us that \$250,000 has already been allocated to tear down the building, plus the architect. That would be deducted from the amount settled on for the contractor work. Plus the Archdiocese has a \$100,000 deductible, also to be

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Approved at 10/22/10 meeting.

deducted. Assuming they started with a \$1.9 Million figure, all that would bring it down to about \$1.55 Million. Nothing is final yet, but if we accept their figures and are ready to let them take the track of selecting “one contractor does all,” we could possibly have it built by September 2011. Again, nothing is final at all in the process as yet.

Textbook Evaluation Committee – Sister Susanne reported that Father Jack, of Prince of Peace, was to have given an evaluation at their last meeting; however, he was away at the time. There will be reports given at the next meeting on the books currently being evaluated by committee members.

Young Adult Opportunity – The Youth Minister at St. Stephen also does Adult Ministry and contacted Sister Susanne about some of the young adults – 21 to 35 range or so – joining in on meeting at the Tower Restaurant in Bel Air for a Happy Half Hour, supper and then a speaker. Kathy has given Sister a list of parishioners in that age range from Holy Spirit that Sister will contact to see if there’s interest. These events are attended by young adults from a number of area churches. Peggy suggested the information be put on the website.

Fund Raising Ideas – Anne asked about additional fundraisers, and Father Simmons said if anyone has any ideas, please pass them on to Mary Smith (Ways & Means Committee).

Speaking of fund raising, Father reported that the Archdiocese will conduct a serious drive for money for the Heritage of Hope, proceeds to be used for a variety of things the Church helps with. They will use professional fundraisers and it will be spread over four years, with ¼ of the parishes participating each year. It is mandatory for all parishes to participate and each parish will get 20% of what people pledge up to our quota, and once our quota is reached, the parish would get 80% of money raised above that amount. During the year that a parish participates, they would not be included in the Archbishop’s Annual Appeal.

Other – A variety of topics came up as people asked questions and gave suggestions for various parish activities. Debbie will call Shawn and see if he’s willing to be in charge of the picnic this year, and ask if Sunday, September 12 would be a convenient date. (Kathy would make a reservation at the park if so.) Peggy suggested that we have a table at the Bull Roast just for military personnel, to acquaint them with activity outside APG. She would contact the Commander’s secretary at APG and have them designate 8

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Approved at 10/22/10 meeting.

people. We would absorb the cost. Peggy will bring this up at the next Bull Roast Committee meeting. There were questions about whether or not we'd have a Halloween Party this year and where it would be held. Usually it's one of the last Sundays in October. A suggestion was made that if we couldn't have it here at Prince of Peace, we might consider "Trunk or Treat" in our parking lot at Holy Spirit. Father Simmons said we will try to have the Halloween Party. Sister Susanne will check the storage bin and see if any of the games and decorations were rescued after the fire. This is a Youth Activities project.

Next meeting – The next meeting will be on Friday, September 24th at 7:00 P.M. at Prince of Peace. Sister Susanne will verify that the hall is free that night. A backup site would be Peggy Doty's house, if needed.

Susan will bring chips and dip, Gary will bring soda, Debbie will bring iced tea, and Carol will bring cups, napkins and paper plates.

Closing

Father Simmons closed the meeting with a prayer.

Notes by Carol Garitty
Council Secretary

NO MEETING SEPTEMBER 2010

Holy Spirit Church

Minutes of Pastoral Council Meeting October 22, 2010

Approved at November meeting.

The meeting was held on October 22, 2010 in the narthex of Prince of Peace Church.

Present: Father Simmons, Carmen Arroyo, Gary Beck, Sister Susanne Bunn, Susan Businsky, Peggy Doty, Carol Garitty, Marge Hoffa, Clotilde Obo, Shawn Sharpeta, Tom Stoll

Absent: Debbie Fischer, Anne O'Connor

Opening: Father Simmons announced that Christopher Coffey had submitted his resignation as a member and president of the council due to conflicting business commitments. Father expressed his thanks for Chris' participation in the council and wishes him well. Gary Beck, vice president, will assume the presidency and, on Father's recommendation, with agreement from the council, we will not elect a new vice president to finish out this term.

Minutes: A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the meeting of August 12, 2010.

Update on Status of Parish Hall: Father Simmons said there is no new information to be given. The insurance company has asked the archdiocese for additional information, which is another delay. There is no known date by which an agreement has to be reached between those two entities. It will likely be 2012 before we will see a new hall.

Committee Updates:

Ways and Means: Marge reported that the Yard Sale held on the parking lot on October 16th did very well. About 53 spots were sold, and turnout was good. (The Sunday bulletin reported a \$700+ profit.) She mentioned that a plant sale will be held in the spring.

Bull, Oyster and Shrimp Feast: Tom, who is committee chair, reported that the committee has met several times, and although ticket sales have been a little slow but are now picking up, he believes it will be a success and will cover expenses. There are still some seats available and Tom asked everyone to "spread the word." Two tables have been purchased for members of the military, thanks to generous parishioners. The committee will meet again October 27th to finalize details and turn money in for outstanding tickets that they have.

Education: Sister Susanne reported that Debbie Reynolds, Youth Minister at St Stephen, had been trying to organize a Faith on Tap group at a local restaurant where young adult Catholics would come for a meal and discussion. The response was not good for Advent, so she will try again for Lent. Ebbie Walsh, from Holy Spirit, will call the list of young adults from HSC provided by Sister to see what interest there is.

Sister also mentioned that the two Education Committees, from Holy Spirit and Prince of Peace, are planning a joint meeting in November.

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Minutes of Pastoral Council Meeting October 22, 2010

Approved at November meeting.

Halloween Party: The annual Halloween party for Holy Spirit and Prince of Peace children (up to age 10) will be held on Sunday, October 31, from 1:00 – 3:00 in the Prince of Peace Hall. Mary Dailey Richardson, Brian McCarthy and others are getting the candy and games, and Kathy Meneghini has located some decorations in the storage bin.

Faith Formation, Youth Activity: Father Simmons and Father Ward have given permission for the Holy Spirit and Prince of Peace youths in grades 8-10 to meet jointly at Prince of Peace for catechesis. They meet on the second and fourth Tuesdays from 6:30-8:30. There are about a dozen teens coming.

Social Outreach: Carol reported that the annual Harford County CROP Walk held on October 9, has as of this date raised over \$14,000 and the Sharing Table will be getting at least \$3,500. This was compared to \$10,500 raised last year. 75% of the money raised goes to Church World Service for worldwide hunger relief efforts, and the Sharing Table was designed to receive the remaining 25% this year.

Carol mentioned that she has spoken with Ginny Lemken, who coordinates the volunteers who serve at the Homeless Shelter in Riverside on the 31st of each month. They are currently engaged in planning a fund-raising raffle, gift certificates from local businesses. The raffle will be held in front of Redner's, date not set as yet. Father Simmons commented that Holy Spirit gives money to the shelter, and the Ladies of the Ancient Order of Hibernians gave the profits from their Christmas concert at Holy Spirit last year to the FCCAU, which the shelter falls under. Father is a chaplain for the Order. He cautions against asking local businesses too often for such donations.

Susan Businsky, Anne O'Connor and Carol have "picked up the ball" from Erma Protokowicz for the annual narthex Giving Tree as Erma has stepped down from that project (although she will continue with the Sharing Table and the Day Shelter). Carol reported that the three local elementary schools have been contacted for names of needy children. Magnolia Elementary and Joppatowne Elementary have each promised about 30 names and there will be a few from Riverside Elementary. The tree will go up in the narthex on Thanksgiving weekend.

Picnic: Shawn reported that we were not able to hold the picnic at Mariner Point Park on September 16th, as hoped, as the pavilion was already booked. The next available dates were in October, and with the weather being somewhat unpredictable in October, it was decided not to schedule it in that month. Shawn will look into getting a firm date set for next September, as everyone would like to continue the outdoor parish picnic.

Christmas Cookie Exchange: Peggy said that we have now established a "tradition" at the hospital, giving our homemade cookies, which Peggy delivers on Christmas Day. If everyone is willing to do it again this year, Peggy will again have the get-together at her house, and that will be in lieu of a December meeting. When we meet in November, we will set a date for that.

Holy Spirit Church

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Approved at November meeting.

General discussion: Carol offered a suggestion that before our next meeting, or for the January meeting, council members review their end-of-year checklists and past meeting minutes to see what we had hoped to accomplish this year, what we have done, and what we would still like to do. Father suggested that Carol do a review and summarize it. It would be helpful if each council member would also do their own reviews.

Father Simmons talked about the ongoing need for people to chair various committees. There are always plenty of workers, but not many people want to be named as a committee chair, even if they are, in fact, doing just that. He suggested that current council members leaving at the end of this term might be interested in chairing a committee, now that they have the knowledge of these activities. Some committees have neither leader nor members. For example, parishioners are needed for a Liturgy Committee, an Evangelization Committee and the Planning Committee (Phil Durham chairs this committee). Sister mentioned that it took sending out about 10 letters of inquiry to find four members for the Education Committee, and then those members suggested adding a catechist and a parent as members, which has been done.

Greeters and Tri-Folds: We have slacked off on having council members greet parishioners at the door at Masses, and the tri-folds have not been put up recently in favor of a large painting that was in the narthex. It has been moved, and Father will put the tri-folds out. There was a suggestion made that the ushers serve as greeters also.

Web page: Sister Susanne reported that at a recent DRE meeting it was suggested that there be a county-wide webpage for all Catholics in Harford County. She contacted Phil Durham, our webmaster, and Phil replied that he had already been contacted and is going to work on the development of that webpage also.

Harford Assembly: Father reported that the Harford Catholic Assembly has completed its work of some three years, having had five major issues to consider. Among the issues: what to do as we lose priests; how best to share facilities, staff and equipment; faith and justice issues; and continuing education, especially for adults. At the conclusion of this endeavor, it was decided that a steering committee will continue to meet twice yearly and they will print out all recommendations that have been made to the archdiocese and distribute them to all parishes. These recommendations are not binding.

Closing Prayer: Father Simmons.

Next Meeting: Friday, November 19, 7:00 P.M. at Prince of Peace.

Holy Spirit Church

Minutes of Pastoral Council Meeting November 19, 2010

Approved at January 2011 meeting

Present – Father Simmons, Sister Susanne, Carmen Arroyo, Gary Beck, Susan Businsky, Peggy Doty, Carol Garitty, Debbie Fisher, Clotilde Obo, Anne O’Connor. **Absent** – Marge Hoffa, Shawn Sharpeta, Tom Stoll

Opening – Father Simmons opened the meeting with a prayer.

Minutes – A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the October 22, 2010 meeting.

Remarks from Father Simmons – Father reminded us that the Community Thanksgiving Service will be held this year at Holy Spirit, Wednesday, November 24, at 7:00 P.M. Members of Good Shepherd Church will be our guests. It was suggested that council members who are attending wear their name badges and greet people. Debbie asked about having refreshments, and Father suggested she contact Kathy about supplies. Carmen volunteered cookies. Father said he will reimburse anyone who brings something in.

Regarding the status of the rebuilding of the parish building, Father said there was a meeting about 10 days ago and basically, there were no new developments. The Archdiocese has done everything it was supposed to do. Father hopes the insurance company will start letting go of the money they will give us as we approach the one-year date of the fire in December.

Father reminded us that Advent begins on November 28th and noted the commercialization of the season has already begun. He suggested, jokingly, that perhaps if we Catholics used commercials to ‘rev up’ getting people to Mass the same way they are urged to shop, we’d have more people coming. But on a more serious note, Father said this is a good time for people of faith to remember how blessed we all are, and how this is really the season to be helping others whenever and wherever we can.

Committee and Activity Reports:

Bull, Oyster and Shrimp Feast – Debbie reported for the committee that there was a profit of \$1,319 and that the committee recommends that \$300 be paid to Prince of Peace for use of their hall, even though they were not charging us for it. Father said he will approve that. He and Father Jack have talked about sharing between the two parishes in various ways. In the future, it may be that social events will be held at Prince of Peace, and the Faith Formation and other educational meetings would be held at Holy Spirit, when we have a building, of course. Meanwhile, we must think in terms of using their facilities for the time being. Sister Susanne had a joint meeting of the Education Committees from both parishes, and they will work together whenever possible. It was suggested that the two parish councils share minutes and ideas, and Father agreed to that.

Ways and Means – Anne suggested the possibility of having a sale of nuts from Anne’s House of Nuts as a fund raiser. Father suggested she check with Mary Smith on that. Also, Anne mentioned the sale of bricks project for when the new building is built; that is still under consideration.

Holy Spirit Church

Minutes of Pastoral Council Meeting November 19, 2010

Approved at January 2011 meeting

Sister Susanne reported that the Halloween Party was a success, with good attendance from both churches. Some of the older students did a good job as helpers. The committee did an excellent job with finding decorations, games and prizes, especially since most of what was used in the past was lost in the fire.

Breakfast With St. Nick will be held on Sunday, December 12th at Prince of Peace, 9:00-12:30, food provided by the Knights of Columbus. \$6 for adults, \$4 for ages 6-13, and free for 5 and under.

The Education Committee has had one joint meeting with Prince of Peace. There is currently a course on Mary being offered by Father Jack, and there will be a course on Jesus next semester.

Teens in Faith Formation from both churches are now meeting jointly on two Tuesday nights each month. There are 14 of them coming. Amy Stumpfle, from Prince of Peace, is in charge of the Youth Ministry.

Giving Tree – Carol reported that the tree will go up in the narthex the Friday after Thanksgiving and will remain until all tags are taken. Gifts are to be turned in by Sunday, December 12, and will be delivered to the schools on Friday, December 17th. Susan, Anne and Carol are coordinating this effort this year for 30 children from Magnolia Elementary, 28 from Joppatowne, and 3 from Riverside.

Pro-Life/Respect Life – Anne said there will be a meeting in Bel Air on November 30th. There will be a Baby Shower for Birthright in January, as well as the March in Washington. St Stephen is sending a bus; perhaps we can share with them. Another thing is that the Knights hand out baby bottles on Mother's Day, to fill with contributions and return on Father's Day. The Archdiocese provides the materials for that. Contact Anne for further details if you are interested in any of these. Anne also suggested that possibly we could have guest speakers about end-of-life care, or someone from the Gabriel Project, or possibly someone from the archdiocese speaking about pro-life legislation. All Harford County coordinators are invited to the meeting on the 30th. Sister suggested that Anne go to the meeting, then meet with the Education Committee, and there might possibly be some Lenten activities related to this.

Other:

December Cookie Exchange – Sunday, December 19th, was set as the date for the council cookie exchange to be held at Peggy's home following the 11:15 Mass. Carol will send out reminder to council members, asking for RSVPs, and will invite some of the committee contacts. This will be in lieu of a council meeting in December.

Archdiocesan Fund Raising – Father has previously mentioned that fund raiser that the Archdiocese will be conducting starting next year. There will be one set of parishes getting the kinks out of the program, which will span five years. Prince of Peace will be one of them. The goal for them is to raise \$240,000 over five years. Until a parish reaches its goal, the split is 80% to the Archdiocese, 20% to the parish; when the goal is reached, that reverses.

Holy Spirit Church

Minutes of Pastoral Council Meeting November 19, 2010

Approved at January 2011 meeting

Discussion re committees. Father reiterated that he hopes that any outgoing council members will work as committee chairs following their terms on the council, and help make committees more active. We talked about having another Committee Fair, but first meeting with committee contacts and determining what the goals for a committee are, and then soliciting people to work on the committees. It's agreed that one-on-one contact getting people to work is probably the most effective means. We are in need of people for Liturgy, Outreach/Evangelization. Sister Susanne said she has a listing of the 21-35 age group parishioners, developed for the proposed "Faith on Tap" program, which has not yet happened. Carol suggested perhaps calling committees 'ministries' might give more seriousness to them.

Next Meeting – The next meeting will be **Thursday, January 27th, at 7:00 at Holy Spirit.** Gary suggested that we each review our own checklists and determine what is our biggest challenge for the rest of this year, and into the next.

ACTION: Please RSVP by December 12th to Carol by e-mail whether or not you will be participating in the Cookie Exchange on December 19th at Peggy's.

Submitted by:
Carol Garitty,
Council Secretary

NO MEETING DECEMBER 2010