

**St Nicholas Parish Council Meeting  
July 19, 2010**

**Staff Members Present:**

Father Bill Hitpas, Pastor  
Barbara Furdek, Director, Religious Education

Ann Daniels, Business Manager

**Discerned Members Present:**

David Todd, President                      Bob Hoff                      Joanne Smallheer                      Yolande Wood  
Jill Pietrusinski, Vice-President      Karyl Reckamp                      Mary Ann Williams

**Others Present:** Carol Mauchline, Trustee

**Opening:** David Todd opened the meeting with prayer at 7:45 pm. The June 28, 2010 minutes and summary were approved as submitted.

**Parish Picnic:** Joanne Smallheer will solicit volunteer sign-ups for the picnic after the masses July 24th and 25th. The picnic begins immediately after the 5:00 pm mass on August 28th. Volunteer shifts will be rotated. She is using her 2009 end-of-activity report to make necessary changes for this year's event. She has made an adjustment in the amount of food from last year. Burgers, hot dogs, bratwurst, and chicken will be served. She had volunteers working on clean-up at 8:00 pm last year. When the picnic was closed down, most of the clean-up was already done. The picnic area will be on the east side of the church building in the shade. Due to the construction site, parking may present a problem. Terri Terhaar will do bingo. Joanne is hoping John Laverdure will oversee the games again as he did last year. She stated he does need assistance. Bob Hoff and Yolande Wood offered to help John. Bob will not be available to pick up the beer. Joanne stated she can find someone with a truck to do this. Bob offered his sound machine for use at the picnic. Adult supervision is needed to oversee the bouncy game. Cooking starts at 3:00 pm. One extra grill is needed. (Joanne discussed her desire to buy a large gas grill for use by various church activities). The snow cone machine will be free of charge. Tye-Dyed Iguana will present their reptile program free of charge. This program is well known, professionally run, and a favorite of children. It will be located in a position whereby parishioners do not have to be involved if they choose not. In order to provide a better system to announce various games, a dry-erase board would be posted where everyone sees it with the scheduled times for each event/game. Yolande offered the use of her dry-erase board. Since the parish picnic is hosted by the Parish Council, Joanne hopes each council member will participate as if they are hosting in their homes.

**Parish Welcome Night:** This is scheduled for August 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm. Father Bill will be the speaker and Parish Council members are asked to attend and circulate among the guests. Invitations from the church office will be sent out to newly enrolled parishioners; notice will be in weekly bulletin; and Father Bill will announce the event at mass. Emma Johnson will greet people at the door as she passes out welcome packets. A tour of the church building will be offered. The youth group will provide care for children as needed. Joanne normally gets good response from parishioners when she requests food for the event. She asks that Parish Council members supplement with bringing finger foods. The desired food is small sandwiches, quiche, fruit, etc. Expect an email to coordinate who brings what foods. Consideration will be given to a suggestion that the video shown at the campaign fund drive gatherings be presented.

**Parish Photo Directory:** Sign-ups are going very well with approximately 400 families committed for the directory at this time. Appointment slots in July/August/September are all booked. The slots for October and November just opened up. Friday and Saturday after Thanksgiving have been added with emphasis on families who have college kids home. Due to this, setting up the Giving Tree will need to be moved to the youth room instead of the parish hall where it has been done previously. Joanne will send invitations to some parishioners asking for their help at the photo sessions. Joanne has alternate plans for emergencies such as if the need for a funeral occurs. The photos will then be taken in the rooms surrounding the office area. Joanne will contact Sister Judy McKenna regarding taking the group pictures at the ministry training evening.

**Activity and Spirituality Center:** Ann Daniels reported things are moving along very well. The closing date of the loan has been held off for one month which saved the Church interest on the 1.5 million

dollars borrowed. The building construction completion date is still ~~mid~~ December ~~17th~~. The water flow/pressure test came back positive and it is expected it will meet city approval. Now things such as flooring and detailing are being worked out. Father Bill is working on plans for activities going on in the buildings upon completion. There will not be a full-time coordinator from the outside hired at this time. The plan is to grow into programs slowly. Father Bill will have a hand-picked commission of eight people who will decide what programs will be reviewed and initiated. He, Barb Furdek, and Ed Koszykowski will be three of the eight-member group. Ed, a St Nicholas parishioner, completed his internship (in the field of pastoral studies) here last year. Father has cleared with the finance committee for Ed to join the St Nicholas staff in about September. Details of this new position are being formulated at this time. For instance, Ed can fill the need of researching closed circuit web casts; i.e., what programs are available covering different aspects of Catholic life such as spirituality, family enrichment, parenting skills, etc. Sessions presented by Richard Rohr would be an example. These programs are being used by some churches throughout the country and could be very helpful to our community.

**Preschool Program:** Ken Pajares and Father Bill continue to work on the details for certification of the preschool program. There is a list of approximately six questions that are being worked out in detail at this time. Some people in our parish, with excellent experience, have expressed an interest in working in this program. Father Bill will be meeting with these people to gather their proposals on how the school should operate, what the needs will be, etc. The next thing happening will be a meeting with parents who have preschool-aged children to determine what they expect/want to see happen in this area. A big issue is whether the program could start in the spring with a low enrollment in order to work out any unforeseen issues or wait until the fall when O'Fallon schools start with a fully established program. The selected preschool staff will decide on these and other issues.

**Church Maintenance:** Ann reported that based on information received, our seven large air conditioning units in the present church building will be needing replacement in the future due to a change in federally-mandated coolant requirements. One unit has a slow leak which prompted research into the system capabilities. Some units may go another fifteen years, some won't. The R22 coolant cost is increasing dramatically over the next few years. Additionally, the Environmental Protection Agency is recommending the use of R410A coolant which will not run through our older units. Nothing needs to be done at this time, but the units will have to be replaced as they wear out. The units in the new construction will not be affected. Also, work on the church tower is finished. The tower was painted and pieces added, giving an overall improved appearance. The retaining pool to the west is also completed. Ann and others were instrumental in directing the construction in a way that saved the trees in that area.

**Web Site:** Suggestion was made to add a tab on the web site regarding chronological process on the building site. More detailed information, with pictures, would also be helpful. Explanation of what's happening, along with the pictures being printed in the Sunday bulletin, would add to the understanding level for our parishioners. The first oral homily has been included on the web site. Plans are for four or five homilies to be available at any one time.

**Closing:** Joanne led the closing prayer. Meeting closed at 9:00 pm. The next scheduled meeting is August 23rd.

Respectively submitted for Council approval:  
EMMA JOHNSON, Recorder

Approved: August 23, 2010

*David F. Todd*

DAVID F. TODD, Parish Council President