

Guild of the Christ Child
Monday, April 6, 2009
Home of Hester & Andy Mathes

Attending: Phillip Austin, Demetrius Boyland, Allison Cates, Hilary Chipley, Rosemary Clark, Margaret Gardner, Beth Hunsberger, Susan Love, Hester & Andy Mathes, Leslie Norman, Ebet Peeples, Nicole Seltzer, and Laura Trott

Hester Mathes opened the meeting in prayer ("A Prayer for Children" by Ina Hughs) and with an explanation of the history of the Guild of the Christ Child at Calvary.

The Guild of the Christ Child at Calvary was founded as a supportive network for children and families. Traditional activities have included the Easter Egg Hunt, a Fall Hayride, Holiday Party, Waffle Shop volunteering, a backpack collection for Carnes Elementary School in conjunction with an evening out for parents (the Backpack Bash), collection of Nursery Staff Appreciation gifts, the creation of Baptismal Banners as well as tree leaves for the Orgill Room, and meals for new parents.

During recent years the guild has had trouble recruiting new leadership. Splinter groups that were defined by ages of children have ceased meeting. For past members, the guild has played an important role in making sure Calvary provided supportive programming for children and families, for example, the Family Sanctuary Class offered on Wednesday evenings. The importance of communication (including alerting the church to event dates as soon as possible) and personal invitation to the guild was discussed.

It was explained that the Guild of the Christ Child is a national Episcopal organization founded to support children and families as they carry out their baptismal promises. Those in attendance used these descriptions of the guild to reorganize.

It was decided that if the Children's Ministries Council is responsible for supporting children and families in their baptismal promises through worship experiences and education then the Guild of the Christ Child's mission is to "support children and families in their baptismal promises through fellowship and service." The guild includes both men and women and is open to anyone wishing to support the spiritual growth of children and families. Many of the guild's efforts may include partnership with the Children's Ministries Council and other Calvary ministry groups.

The guild will continue to honor its mission by:

- Offering an annual Easter Egg Hunt on Holy Saturday: Easter Eve that includes fellowship activities. Prior to the hunt, an explanation of why we have Easter Egg Hunts and a prayer will be offered to those in attendance. The Rev. George Yandell will be attending this year's hunt and plans to give an explanation and prayer.
- The guild will continue to create baptismal banners for each child baptized at Calvary. Nicole Seltzer volunteered to coordinate this ministry. It was suggested that banners be made in community to foster fellowship. Multiple banners can be

made at a time. Banner making may be planned in coordination with a guild meeting.

- The guild will continue to provide new meals to new parents. The guild was reminded to recognize adoptions as well as new births. Leslie Norman continues to coordinate this ministry. It was suggested that the ministry include both those who like to contribute meals from their own kitchens as well as group cooking events to foster fellowship and to stock the Calvary freezers with multiple meals. Laura Trott will contact the Waffle Shop Kitchen coordinators as well as the Calvary Chefs to learn more about cooking in mass quantities and using the Calvary kitchen. In addition to meals, all guild members were encouraged to take notice of new additions to families and to send cards and make supportive phone calls. E-mails to the guild will be sent regularly with announcements of new births or adoptions.
- In celebration of the guild's efforts, an adults-only social event will be offered on 12th night (Epiphany Party). Those whose last names begin in A-M will be asked to bring appetizers. Those whose last names begin in N-Z will be asked to bring desserts. To keep the costs down, everyone will be encouraged to bring their beverage of choice. Non-alcoholic beverages will be provided by the guild.

The Men's Journey Group has volunteered to take over the coordination of the annual hayride. It was suggested that due to the annual parish picnic's later date that this event be held in August or early fall and that it incorporate the backpack drive to support Carnes Elementary School.

Although many love the idea of artistically representing each child baptized at Calvary with a leaf added to the trees in the Orgill Room, the trees are now full. It was decided to discontinue this ministry. The discussion was left open for future artistic opportunities that represent those baptized at Calvary. Hester Mathes will write an article for the *Chronicle* about this decision.

Nicole Seltzer gave an explanation of Calvary's Outreach Grants Ministries process and how the Guild of the Christ Child's monetary support helped this year's decision-making process. This money was raised through guild members' volunteer efforts at the Waffle Shop.

Throughout the meeting, attendants stuffed Easter eggs for the Easter Egg Hunt and enjoyed one another's company. Thanks was given to all those who dropped off candy and stickers in advance, but who were unable to attend. You were missed.

Agenda items left for future discussion:

- Whether or not this guild is an extension of the Episcopal Church Women.

Respectfully submitted,
Laura Trott