

Executive Council Listening Session Notes: April 21, 2013

St. Paul's – New Albany, IN

- 17 in attendance
- Bishop Cate, Coral Hamlin, and Whitney Rice from Executive Council
- Introductions – parish and passion in ministry
- Structure of the Diocese and National Church
- Executive Council description information

In ministry together:

1. What's going well in your parish?

New Albany:

- New priest
- Not part of our "ordinary" – example: the way that lent was put together, different form of the "Stations of the Cross" every Wed. evening followed by a soup supper – picked up people along the way
- We do "home" church – food, fellowship
- We practice acceptance of all people including those with dietary needs
- The Arts – visual, performing etc.
- New council developed in parish – read/tell stories – 4th of July American stories

Bedford:

- Young church – small church with lots of kids – all revolves around the children
- Acceptance of all – even atheists, gays – evangelism from young atheists
- How do you feel today after being confirmed? "Alive!"

Jeffersonville:

- Starting to do fun things together
- All Hallow's Eve service and gathering
- Started women's and men's spirituality group
- Holy Spirit blowing through – bringing visitors – some are staying and some are not
- Pipe organ gift – "fire and Rain" church: we got permission from James Taylor to use his song – donated score from one of his concerts to be auctioned. This gave us all a boost! We have raised 92% of our goal.

Bean Blossom:

- Exploring offering a Farmer's Market to the community
- Had a very successful Variety Show and dinner last summer (2012)
- Long term goal: offer a music school to give lessons to our young people in Brown County

2. *What experience in the "household" has moved you?*

- Cated invited a beggar to dinner while walking to dinner
- Waycross and Council of Advise
- The labyrinth at Waycross
- Sang in General Convention Choir at 1994 convention in Indy; General Convention Eucharist; the communion of saints
- Outside the diocese – monthly clerical meetings; one time a month social time – sense of community among the clergy
- Long for more opportunities for clergy to share
- Waycross – really special (especially the last 10 years) mostly with adults – feels like it's own community, place where spirituality can blossom; no jobs to do – freedom from jobs – renewal
- Filled in for Sabbatical leave at St. Thomas – love and tenderness from the members of St, Thomas in a time of crisis
- Speaking with Cathy Copas prior to General Convention – connected a person from congregation and they worked at G.C.
- Good support from Diocesan Staff – more deeply connected than other diocese

3. *What can you and your parish offer to the Household?***4. *What Challenges are you facing that the Household could help you with?*****Bedford:**

- Children's moment during church
- Celebrating their importance to the life of the church
- We have a strong lay leadership – involving our kids – could share with diocese
- Kids help with cleaning up after church – sacristy, trash, etc.

New Albany:

- Fran Fach can organize anything!
- Home church – how to do, etc.
- Art on the Green; Beeer Wagon
- Mass on the Green – use property – lovely setting
- Diocesan Convention – missing "Mission Minutes" – have found them important

- Back Packs – for whole elementary school
- Community garden at Sr. Tower – youth garden too – focus on healthy issues – draws kids in (Note: talk to St. Christopher’s in Carmel re: garden)

Jeffersonville:

- Process of Appreciative Inquiry: how to have conversations and discussion

Bean Blossom:

- Struggle with our theological backgrounds – how do we meet at the table?
- Ongoing conversation about welcoming children; identifying issues with who we are

In General:

- Wed. Mailbag – back in a PDF format not just on the website
- Diocesan Cycle of Prayer – include one ministry project each week

5. *What do you feel are the most important ministries of the diocese?*

- Helping the needy – pooling our resources/talents to serve those in need
- Continue to support the people doing the work – nurture the laborers
- Need to think what the church of the 21st century should be – quit patching up the “old” church – let the “hospice” take care of the old church while we continue to grow
- Small town/small church – don’t know we are here – because they “found” us. Being a “home” to the searching
- We are struck being the empire church – we need to be the underground church
- Language and resources we need to get the work out – we are a “wordy” church – we need to work in “sound bites”
- Came to New Albany because of the Art on the Green – feeding ministry – find their mission
- Let people know we exist beyond the four walls