

**Good Shepherd Catholic Church  
Pastoral Council Annual Report for June 2018 – May 2019**

**I. Pastoral Council**

Father Michael Foley, *Pastor*  
Ken & Ginger Obst, *Pastoral Associates*  
Elyse Tweedie, *Pastoral Associate*

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**Pastoral Council Executive Committee and Pastoral Council Members**

Elyse Tweedie, *Pastoral Council Coordinator*  
Mark Perez, *Assistant Pastoral Council Coordinator*  
Art Wright, *Communications Coordinator*  
Trish Shubrick, *Assistant Communications Coordinator*

- Michael Bell
- Phil Bonadonna
- Debbie Bonadonna
- Melissa Perez
- Laura Frandsen
- Ana Gonzalez
- Mike McDonnell
- Patty Muhlbaier
- Melissa Perez
- Stephen Quintero
- Renee Sweeney
- Tim Sweeney

**Overview:**

The Pastoral Council and its three goal teams were “richly blessed” in the 2018 – 2019 term. Functioning as a small Christian community, the pastoral council members continue to grow closer to one another and to our Lord. The faith sharing dynamic practiced at every meeting allowed for a special relationship among council members. Time spent in prayer for the parish community at the end of our meetings helped us to appreciate the importance of our Good Shepherd family and the importance of our service as council members to meet parish needs. As the year progressed, there were ample opportunities to support, encourage and pray for one another, on matters related to our individual lives as well as the undertakings of our goal teams. As a council and as individuals we were able to show support for and interact with other ministries active at Good Shepherd Catholic Church.

In fulfillment of our Charter of the Pastoral Council of Good Shepherd Parish mandates, we enjoyed opportunities to advise the Pastor (Father Michael Foley) on parish related matters. During interim goal setting activities we examined parish needs and offered strategies to help address them. As the year progressed, we became more aware of parish related issues and the importance of our goals and objectives in permitting the People of God at Good Shepherd to be brought into greater conformity with the Gospel.

## **II. Pastoral Council 2018-2019 Key Activities:**

- A. While most of the work of the Pastoral Council of Good Shepherd Parish takes place outside of monthly meetings, the important function these meetings provide in terms of accountability for goal teams cannot be underestimated. Using a process of shared wisdom and consensus decision-making, council members listen and react to monthly reports from goal team leaders and members on progress toward reaching objectives to accomplish their goals. These sessions provide necessary encouragement, support, and incentive to continue pursuing objectives amidst natural challenges that arise.
- B. Our October meeting was cancelled due to Hurricane Michael. The parish helped support those affected by the hurricane with donations of supplies and cash and many parishioners participated in relief activities in affected parishes in the panhandle.
- C. Most of the Pastoral Council members were involved in Oktoberfest in one aspect or another through their various Ministries. Stewardship, with the help of Adam Emerson and Ginger Obst, also held a ministry fair in conjunction with Oktoberfest. In order to help Oktoberfest run more smoothly, the hours of the event for next year have been reduced and will not include a ministry fair. Stewardship is considering holding a Volunteer Sunday in the fall as a means to generate more parishioner involvement in parish life.
- D. In November, members of the Amazing Parish leadership team advised the council on their activities to help create a parish of missionary disciples. The current focus is on the Sunday experience.
- E. In December, council members assisted with the Advent Family Dinner, another successful evening of faith and fellowship.
- F. The Pastoral Council, together with MOGS, coordinated one of the six 2019 Friday Soup Supper and Lenten Stations of the Cross evenings.
- G. A beautiful new Parish sign has been installed and we held a sign blessing at the beginning of our meeting on April 9<sup>th</sup>.
- H. The council was invited to participate in the Corpus Christi procession which took place on June 23<sup>rd</sup> after the Noon Mass. It was a beautiful celebration of the Eucharist for the parish which included a handmade canopy and participation by the Knights of Columbus, Lifeteen, Edge and children of the parish along with the choir. A celebration followed in the Community Center. It was the start of a new tradition here at the parish.
- I. Father Foley announced at the May meeting the launch of an exciting men's program That Man is You which will begin in September with about 150 men of the parish participating.
- J. Father Foley invited council members to participate in a building planning meeting in July to consider a replacement for the Community Center. Work on this initiative will continue.

## **III. Pastoral Council's 2018 -2019 Goals and Objectives**

## Pastoral Council Yearly Goal Team Report

**Date: May 20, 2019**

**Report for the year June 2018 through May 2019.**

**Goal Team Number: One (1). Young Adults**

**Goal Team Leader: Michael Bell**

**Report Prepared By: Michael Bell**

**Goal: Provide opportunities for young adults to participate more actively in Parish life and achieve greater connectedness to their faith community.**

### **Objective 1: Form a Core Leadership Team by June 2019**

- **Progress:** The active participation of several young adults has been a great addition to our group. Several young adults have expressed an interest to be part of the core team. The beginnings of formation have taken place but is not completely functional yet.
- **Challenges encountered:** Although several young adults have been extremely instrumental in the healthy development of the Young Adults Group, they have expressed hesitation in taking leadership roles. Very recently, however, hopeful signs have emerged with the deeper interest of a couple young adults who have been attending monthly meeting, and, have been instrumental in providing ideas and active participation toward reaching this objective.
- **Future plans:** To formalize a committed core team and have a leadership training that will allow the group to function independently.
- **Support and coordination requested:** 1. Prayer; 2. Encouragement to participate from all Pastoral Council members of family and friends who are of the Young Adults age. 3. Provide any skills to help with the Leadership training.
- **Recommendations:** 1. Continue to listen to the young adult members of our committee in scheduling future activities. 2. Continue the regularly-scheduled activities, and, strong communication in raising the profile of Young Adults. 3. Actively pursue implementation of the fresh ideas recently offered by the recently-active young adults. 4. Continue to encourage active, higher profile roles of certain young adult leaders who are beginning to exhibit the confidence necessary to lead.

### **Objective 2: Investigate with core leadership teams the way Catholic Young Adults can and do engage in various parish ministries.**

- **Progress:** The scheduled activities for the past year have doubled from previous years. This should continue for the foreseeable future.
  - Some of the activities: Financial Planning for Young Adults class, Christmas Party, Pizza Party, Oktoberfest, Stations of the Cross, Wine & Cheese social, *P3: Prayer, Penance, Pub for Young Adults*, Bowling, Movie & Game Night, Pizza & Beer Night, Ice Cream Social, and a mission to assist hurricane victims in Blountstown.
  - The “Good Shepherd Young Adults Speakers Series” has proven to be very popular, attracting Young Adults from Good Shepherd Parish, as well as all other parishes and several non-Catholics:  
Bishop Bill: “What’s So Great About Being Catholic, Anyway”.  
Diana Calabro: “Promoting a Healthy Mind, Body, & Soul”.  
Father Matthew Busch: “Modern Science and the Catholic Church”

Father Tom Dillon: "Why Be Catholic?....and Other Questions"

- Upcoming scheduled activities include:  
Continuation of Speakers Series, possibly including speakers' topics covering newly-suggested topics.  
Corpus Christi Celebration; Music Concert; Movie Night; Christmas Party; Bible Study.  
Input from the young adults on our committee has been instrumental in the ongoing growth of Young Adults.

We continue to experience the difficulties of forming a leadership group composed of young adults. Whereas we have the wonderful devotion of a few young adults, most notably Carrie Oatis, we have not yet seen young adults step up in leadership roles. We continue to encourage the active members to assume these very important roles by showing the confidence that they really do possess. Our Team will work to point out to them that they already have the leadership qualities that are necessary. Further research and study of the ways other parishes achieve success in this area will continue.

- **Challenges encountered:** Learning what activities and when young adults wanted to meet. Surveys and polls were sent out to help identify the best times and places. Getting communication out to Young Adults has been a challenge but through the addition of regular Facebook posts, additions and updates to the Young Adults web page, flyers, announcements in the bulletins and at church, all have helped us spread the word.
- **Future plans:** Encouragement of young adults to continue joining us in future activities both spiritually and socially. Continue to regularly get the word out about Young Adult activities.
- **Support and coordination requested:** 1) Prayer, 2) Updated young adult contact information, 3) Verbal and other active support and encouragement from parish priests and young adult leaders of various other parish ministries.
- **Recommendations:** Encourage interested young adults to continue to serve on the Goal Team, and to serve on a core leadership team researching ways to keep current on the interests young adults.  
Continue to encourage potential Young Adult leaders in their growth as leaders.  
An improved use of all available means of communication should bring positive results: Email, Bulletin notices, Church announcements, Facebook, Parish app., newspaper announcements, and word of mouth. A growing young adults contact list will serve to reach more people.

### **Pastoral Council Yearly Goal Team Report**

**Date:** May 21, 2019

**Report For:** Small Christian Community

**Goal Team Leader:** Debbie Bonadonna

**Goal Team Members:** Ginger Obst, Tim Sweeney, Renee, Sweeney, Debbie Bonadonna, Phil Bonadonna

**Goal: Foster an active prayer life and deeper community relationship through participation in Small Christian Communities (SCC).**

**Objective 1: Provide leadership for the development of seasonal Small Christian Communities for Advent and Lent.**

- **Progress:** Last year the SCC database was updated. All inactive groups were deleted and existing groups were verified. A total of seven new members were added to our existing groups who were willing to accept new members. Also, a new group was added for the parents of our Life Teens and a group for families with young children.
- **Challenges:** Keeping the database current. Each year the facilitators need to be contacted to verify the group is still active and the members of the group have not changed.
- **Future Plans:** Continue maintaining the database and expanding the SCC participation.
- **Support and Coordination Requested:** Help is needed at the table after Masses to register individuals interested in joining or forming a SCC. Assist by inviting others to form new SCC prayer groups. We need all Council Members to continue to pray that more individuals choose to strengthen their relationship with Christ through a SCC group.
- **Recommendations:** The SCC Goal Team has been a part of the Parish Council for several years. It is time to consider moving it out of Parish Council.

**Objective 2: Identify new websites, prayers and other materials to enhance the SCC program.**

- **Progress:** The reference material available to SCC groups has been expanded. The materials are maintained in the office and available for SCC groups to check out.
- **Challenges:** Identifying new materials and keeping those materials current. Getting the information out about materials available to existing SCC groups.
- **Future Plans:** Keep exploring the internet for new materials. Update the website with a list of materials available.
- **Support and Coordination Requested:** All Council Members provide any information about other materials or websites that may be useful to SCC groups.

**Objective 3: Work with other Good Shepherd Ministries to facilitate the formation of new SCC Groups.**

- **Progress:** Presentations are available to any Ministry interested in the formation of a SCC group. At the end of each Alpha group, a information we presented to the group about SCC. How SCC is a way to continue their journey to grow closer to Jesus.
- **Challenges:** Getting the word out to other Ministries about SCC.
- **Support and Coordination Request:** Members of the Council who are involved in other Ministries spread the word about SCC. Inform others of our availability to help form a new SCC group.
- **Recommendation:** Pray and spread the word!

## **Pastoral Council Yearly Goal Team Report**

**Date: May 21, 2019**

**Report for: Alpha**

**Goal Team Number: 3**

**Goal Team Leader: Art Wright**

**Report Prepared By: Art Wright**

**Goal:** To establish ALPHA as a core ministry within our parish

**Objective 1: Present three Alpha Courses and an Alpha Course at Wakulla Correctional**

**Progress:** Two Alpha courses were presented with the third cancelled due to lack of guests.

- The September Alpha (cycle 3) had 6 guests attending regularly, 4 are under 30, 1 is under 40 and the other is over 55; 3 are males and 3 are females. Everything went smooth including the Saturday retreat with only 3 guests.
- The January Alpha (cycle 1) was cancelled.
- The May Alpha (cycle 2) started on May 16<sup>th</sup>. Twelve people indicated they would attend, and nine guests attended. Seven in this group appear to be the intended target audience. Of the guests: 5 are males, 4 are females; 1 is between 20-29, 2 are between 30-39, 3 are between 50-59, and 3 are over 60. The guests heard about Alpha through friends, Sven's witness, and pulpit announcements. Babysitting is being provided for 2 small children. Following Father Mike's suggestion to have a table after the announcement was a great idea. There were 8 people who visited the table and indicated they wanted to attend.
- The Alpha course at Wakulla Correctional has not started and not sure if or when it will.
- Challenges encountered: It is very difficult to provide breakfast, lunch and dinner in the annex without an oven. Trying to purchase a table cover and 2 Alpha banners/posters.
- Future plans: Continue to have 3 cycles of Alpha a year.
- Support and coordination requested: Need direction on the purchase of promotional items.
- Recommendations: Need 2 other individuals to take the lead on Alpha cycles. Art and Alice can handle one cycle, but having others take the lead on the other 2 is needed.

## **Objective 2: Recruit and provide training to the Alpha Core Team**

- Progress: An email was sent to assess the number who no longer wanted to be on the Alpha Team. No one asked to be removed from the distribution list. A few other members have joined including Sven Markert who has been a host in the last two Alphas. Roger Luca, Ana Gonzalez, Mike McDonnell, Cindy Markert, Margaret Haynes and Art & Alice Wright have been consistently attending the Alpha meetings. Refresher training is provided before each Alpha Course.
- Challenges encountered: We have the same people volunteering to be hosts and helpers. So far that is sufficient but in future Alphas more will be needed.
- Future plans: Identify others (possible those who attended as guests) that may be interested in serving as a host or helper. Continue with the refresher training before the course begins.
- Support and coordination requested: None at this time.
- Recommendations: Continue with the refresher training. Identify others interested.

## **Objective 3: Promote Alpha**

- Progress: Announcements were placed in the bulletin and posted on Facebook. Business size cards were purchased from Alpha USA and handed out at Masses along with a quarter size leaflet developed by Elyse. Before the recent Alpha started Deacon announcements was made 3 weeks before, Sven provided a testimonial at all masses 2 weeks before, and a pulpit announcement was made the week before. Ken Obst also hung the Alpha banner on the outside of the community center and a table was set up after the pulpit announcements.
- Challenges encountered: Trying to reach the intended audience of those who do not have a relationship with Jesus.
- Future plans: Continue with the current practices. Would like to show a short promotional video at all masses before the next Alpha cycle. Would also like to purchase a table cover and 2 banners/posters so Alpha is more visible throughout the year. Would also like to see if one of the guests would provide a testimonial at Mass.
- Support and coordination requested: Purchasing the requested items. All of our priests and deacons need to be more aware of Alpha and help to promote Alpha as one way for our parishioners to outreach to our community.
- Recommendations: None