

St. Edward Annual Parish Meeting
August 10, 2022
6:00 p.m.

Fr. Robert opened the meeting with a prayer at 6:00 p.m. Fr. encouraged everyone to support each other, rejoice with each other and pray for one another in our parish.

Pastoral Outreach: Deacon Jeff

- Over 32 families are visited and offered Communion in area household and facilities.
- Facilities still have a variety of requirements, but visits continue as best as we can.
- Fr. Robert offers Mass at Country Villa in Freedom, while Deacon Gary and I offer communion services at Country Villa, Primrose, Century Oaks, and Willows Assisted Living along with other facilities and in homes that we visit.
- We ministered to 20 baptismal couples and godparents and worked with 5 couples in preparing for marriage.
- 16 families experiencing the loss of a loved one have received counseling in various ways, through funerals, at funeral homes or home visits.
- St. Edward continues to take collections for Spiritus, Pillars Homeless Shelter, Harbor House, Vida (Mother of Unborn Baby Care), Freedom Food Pantry and we send volunteers to Feeding America and Help for the Homeless.
- The Knights of Columbus also continue their outreach with fundraisers for various organizations.
- I thank you for all your prayers, your generosity and the tremendous volunteer support at St. Edward that keeps our ministries reaching out and very much alive.

Trustees' Reports: Deacon Jeff on Behalf of Pat Coonen and Merle Verhagen

- **Treasurer Trustee Pat Coonen:** Many people feel at home here in our beautiful church. It has been well cared for and has recently received deeper maintenance and updates which will continue into fall. Thank you to all who have helped in any way. New volunteers will be appreciated. I have two goals:
 - Our Baptismal font, not used in several years, is structurally compromised. I welcome any ideas on how to update and/or repair the font. Please contact me.
 - Our 175th anniversary celebrating the founding of St. Edward in 1849 should be a grand occasion and well celebrated during 2024. Bishop Ricken is scheduled to celebrate Mass on October 13, 2024, the feast of St. Edward the Confessor. Help in planning special events throughout the year would be appreciated.
- **Secretary Trustee Merle Verhagen:** I have enjoyed my first year and have come to realize how many volunteers it takes to keep the parish running.
 - Our parish is alive and continually looking at new ways to keep everyone engaged, especially our youth. I'd like to thank Celia and Mary for all they do with the youth in the parish. I believe their programs are helping keep the youth active in church.
 - We are actively searching for new Pastoral council members.
 - Thank you to Erin who keeps everything flowing and makes what we do a lot easier to accomplish.

Pastoral Council – Patrick Berg on behalf of Kim Goffard

- This year the Pastoral council spent much of our time reviewing the Mission Plan that our mission planning team prayerfully put forward. It is the duty of the Pastoral Council to oversee the implementation of the Parish Mission Plan. Some of the mission goals were met and developed to monitor the progress of the goals that are longer reaching
- We said goodbye to some of our long-term Council leadership who served two terms. Tim Lamers, Steve Cove, and Jane Varick. We thank them for all their contributions and look forward to adding two new members this fall and continue to serve our parish families.

Finance Council – Terry Woelfel

- **Approval of Minutes:** Terry asked to have the August 2021 Annual Meeting minutes approved. Patrick Berg motioned to approve the 2021 minutes; Denise Brincks seconded the motion.
- Terry introduced the current Finance Council
 - Mark Hofacker, Liz Harp, Nicole Pietsch, Tom Pethan, Tim Westphal, and Terry Woelfel-Chair
- Communication Liaison's to specific areas:
 - Mark Hofacker- Tractor Pull
 - Liz Harp / Nicole Pietsch
 - Home & School
 - Harvest Moon Festival
 - St. Edward School
 - Tim Westphal/Mark Hofacker (Assist)
 - Buildings & Grounds
 - Tom Pethan
 - Cemetery
 - Finance Investments/Insurance
 - Terry Woelfel
 - Fish Fry
 - Pastoral Council

Terry addressed several areas on the Annual Report financials which may raise questions:

Revenues

- Parish Support & Offertory—Down 6.6% from last year at \$332,192 vs \$345,715 in 2021. We need to keep an eye on our parish giving.
- Tuition & Instructional Fees: Why is tuition down?
 - Loss of some school choice students this past year
- Tractor Pull: Why does the report stated \$68,000 and while the actual gain was \$82,000
 - This report is a fiscal report from July 1 to June 1. Some income and expenses were accounted for after June 30th.
- Home and School Fundraisers: Why are they negative?
 - Accounts were cleaned up and monies allocated to where the profits were designated to go.
- Other Misc. Income: Why is there a large increase from \$177,479 to \$335,178?
 - It now includes SCRIP revenues and first portion of the insurance payment for the hail damaged roofs.

Expenses

- Building Utilities & Maintenance Costs are up \$119,548 from \$46,256 due to various upgrades and down payments:
 - Lighting - upgraded to LED which will pay for itself over time
 - Playground - support the Home and School Team
 - Floor Cleaning
 - Masonry work
 - 3 air conditioning replacements
 - Parking lot expansion
- Capital Expenses
 - These are funds not paid yet or were down payments for playground installation, fencing, A/C units, front pew kneelers, etc.
- Miscellaneous Expenses: \$180,116 up from \$19,567
 - Due to investing monies to an investment account from a matured CD.

Balance Sheet

- Building & Maintenance & Reserve Funds were moved to consolidate to one bank and checking accounts for efficiencies in reporting.
- Parish Endowment has a large increase. 47,000 to 1.7 million. A gentleman passed away and left that generous amount for the use of the parish.
- As a parish we are doing well financially, but we need to be vigilant in giving to our parish to help us keep moving forward.

Terry asked if there were any questions.

Jerry Ebben asked what is being planned on a 5-year basis. Terry answered:

- We are going to see the playground finished
- Possibility of an east pavilion being built for not just the tractor pull but for other functions and events.
- There are ideas on expansion to the east for a community center for funeral luncheons, anniversary luncheons, etc.

Roy Valitchka expressed concern about the number of families not increasing in recent years. Terry answered that he believes our parish is energized and going the right path to attract new families. He cited our newly improved music program as well parish mission planning looking at a marketing position which will enhance our ability to attract families to St. Edward.

Terry stated if anyone has any questions concerning any of the financial reporting in this year's account, he invites you to contact him.

Maintenance Report – Cathy Schwieso on behalf of the Building & Grounds Steering Committee Projects completed in 2021-2022:

- Bill Wilmer was hired as a part-time Custodial Manager in February. His expertise in managing multiple projects and working with vendors and bids has been a huge benefit to St. Edward Parish and School.
- **Rental properties:**
 - Rent was increased by 3% for our two rental properties. Both rental properties have passed recent inspections
 - East Rental Property basement has been fixed and is now dry. The basement walls in this rental were painted and sealed. A few more precautionary measures will be taken in 2022.
- **Security cameras** have been installed on site
- **Part-time Janitor Positions:** Lathan Hofacker is working part-time through the summer. He'll be returning to school in the fall. We recently interviewed and hired two part-time custodian assistants. They will be beneficial in ensuring Deacon Jeff has more time for his pastoral duties.
- **Window installed in the confession room:** Installed due to Diocesan audit.
- **Grout and Tile Cleaning:** The entire floor throughout church as well as tile on bathroom walls were cleaned and sealed. This has not been done since the church was built.
- **Keyless door entry** added to church door.
- **Tractor pull track moved to the north**, resulting in additional parking at the south end. This addition was paved this past summer. The committee has discussed painting lines on the pavement for efficient parking.
- **Outside Church Repairs:**
 - **Older windows stained and sealed:** Volunteers systematically took existing church windows out to stain and reseal each window. Drip-pans were installed above each window to stop leaking into the building.
 - **Cupola Repair** – Jim Hofacker and Mike Ebben repaired the soffit and cracked mortar on the cupola
 - **Masonry Repair** – Jim Hofacker completed tuck pointing and repairing masonry walls on the outside of church.
 - **Bell tower repair** – The bells were taken down while the beam and tower caps were clad in sheet metal to ensure longevity. Bells were replaced and are chiming beautifully.

- **Lighting projects:**
 - School lights have been updated to LED lighting.
 - New lamps have been installed in the gathering area.
 - Lights were adjusted above each station in church.
- **New Playground installation** – Bill and Dave were involved in implementing installation.

2022-2023 Scheduled Projects:

- **Roof Replacements due to hail damage:**
 - School and outbuilding roofs – to be replaced before school starts.
 - Church roof this fall. In addition we will be replacing eight skylights and three A/C units.
 - East rental roof this fall, along with gutters and downspouts.
- **Masonry Repair:** Jim will return in August/September to clean and seal the outside masonry walls he repaired this summer. He'll also be doing some masonry work on the inside of church.
- **Lighting:** Church lighting will be updated to LED later this year.
- **Baptismal font:** Discussions are taking place as to how to utilize the old font
- **Church Furnaces (13):** Boucher Heating will be coming this fall to service all of the church furnaces and give us a report on their condition and what we can expect for their life expectancy.

On behalf of the Steering Committee, thank you to the volunteers who truly are the backbone at St. Edward parish. We are always looking for new volunteers to join in helping in the projects at St. Edward.

Cemetery Report – Ervin Van Camp was not present.

New Evangelization – Sue Vandenberg presented for Celia McKee and Amy Froehlich

- In the 2020-21 school year, we averaged 35 students. This year we had over 80 students weekly.
- The Wednesday night program was redesigned to a large group style so catechists can work together. We also set up a mini course style so catechists have the option to volunteer in 3-4 week blocks if they cannot commit to the whole year.
- Amy Froehlich joined our team as Adult NE Coordinator. She has been a huge blessing.
- This summer we held Faith & Fun Days with St. Nicholas. We had great youth volunteers. Excellent mentors for the younger children who attended.
- Looking ahead to 2022-23:
 - We accepted the apprenticeship application from Ashlyn Hildebrand through Freedom High school. She will be with us during the whole school year learning the workings of a parish. She has been volunteering in a variety of ways.
 - In 2023 the Sacrament of Confirmation will be celebrated with a more regional approach around the Diocese. We will be celebrating with St. Mary in Greenville and St. Nicholas at our parish in February. This will likely be the way it is done for the next several years.

Adult NE Coordinator Amy Froehlich

Since Amy was hired in April, we have offered various activities to get things rolling again for adults: Biblical Art, The Chosen and Friday Fellowship. We are offering a Grandparent Day on September 11 after Mass. This coming year, we hope to offer more in the area of grief support, as well as return to collaborating with the area Adult Education programs.

Young Adult Coordinator Mary Hildebrand presented by Ashlyn Hildebrand

- This past year we were drawn to women's ministry, open to all women 18 and older.
 - We offered Ladies' Nights meeting quarterly with dinner and an activity.
 - We also offered a "Blessed is She" study group for Advent and Lent.
- Our Wednesday Playground group is going well, and we are excited to play on the new playground.
- Faith around the Fire nights include reading and reflecting on the Sunday Gospels.
- We held an amazing country music praise night with music provided by "Bless Your Heart".
- This fall we are working on getting a Moms and Tots group to meet twice a month.
- There will be an Adoration night at St. Pius for young adults.

Thank you for this opportunity to be a youth apprentice.

School Report – Lynn Schuh on behalf of Renee Cowart

- The new playground is almost ready and we are so excited. Next week we are having a Home and School ribbon cutting for our students and families at the playground. The playground will then be open to the public except during school days and during After Care. We thank our Home and School Association, the people of the parish who donated and a special family who made a large donation. We appreciate you all.
- We are happy to announce that all our teachers and school staff have returned this year. The only staff changes are: Mrs. Look is going back to 4th and 5th grade, Mrs. Lenaburg will teach 2nd grade, Mrs. Friesen will teach 1st grade instead of a double class of 1st and 2nd. Staff returned on July 15. They will be recertified in CPR, trained on gender inequality and school safety.
- We are excited to have volunteers back in the classroom this school. We are looking for subs, lunch, recess, and classroom helpers. Anyone interested needs to be Virtus trained and have a background check.

Thank you so much for our support. We appreciate each of you.

Home & School – Bethany Brincks

- Our big project this year has been the new playground equipment which has been installed. The swings are on backorder and once they are installed, we will have more rubber base for support.
- We currently have \$22,000 in our restricted fund and \$4,700 in our checking. We're going to cut back on our fundraising a bit this next year, keeping our three big activities.
- We held a golf outing this past May. It was a little smaller than our first year, but we knew we were competing with another big golf outing. We made just over \$15,000 and we have next year's date set.
- We are planning on Back to School Night sometime in September where hopefully people will step forward willing to be voted in for the committees. We have a big turnover this year.
- We will continue fundraising for the playground and any future teacher needs.
- We are hoping to touch up painting and sealing the states drawing, the obstacle course and adding 4-square games

Worship/Music/Organ Committee – Mike Collom

My wife, Lynn and I coordinate the music ministry here at St. Edward. I'm happy to report the fun is back, the choir is back. It's a great group. We are blessed with all the participants we have, the accompanists, the cantors, and other instrumentalists.

Looking Back: 2021-2022

- The new organ was the big news last year. From February to December, we had the idea, raised the funds, bought the organ, had the organ delivered, had it installed and had it operational before Christmas. We held a concert in February which was not quite 12 months after the whole thing started. It has been a wonderful instrument and has added so much to our worship.
 - \$69,060.50 was raised
 - \$57,150.00 was spent
 - \$ 11,910.50 remaining
- We received a generous Bernice Rudolph Family donation and we purchased lights for the organ and piano as well as cantor lights.
- Music Ministries
 - Choir restarted for a full season with new members giving us a great balance.
 - Blessed with four accompanists this past year.
- Media and Sound System
 - Relocated mixer, consolidation and cleanup.
 - Purchased monitors for the vocalists.
 - Made interconnection changes. All the organ sound comes from 12 speakers which are all behind the screens.
 - Bought a long cable, relocated the organ and piano to give our accompanists better visibility of the altar.

Looking Ahead: 2022-2023

- No major budgeted expenditures.
- Mixer upgrades – due to a very general donation, we are adding a 32-channel mixer which will be coming in late August.
- Added second music license for streaming/display.
- Reorganizing the working sacristy.
- A lot goes on behind the scenes...
 - We travel a lot and bring back ideas from where we visit.
 - Musician scheduling.
 - Recording of parts for singers.
 - Rehearsals with singers and small groups.
 - Music planning to match the readings.
 - Music coordination with media for display.
 - License reporting.
- We really want to thank all of the musicians, most of whom are volunteers. They keep our program going and improving!
- We also welcome anyone interested in joining!

Tractor Pull Report – Lynn Schuh

- I am a steering committee member. Rodger Baum is the head chairperson for the event. There are 25 subcommittee chairpersons plus the many volunteers.
- 46th Annual Truck and Tractor Pull was very successful with proceeds totaling \$82,000.
- Thursday night was cancelled due to Wednesday's storm which blew the tent down. Many people stepped up to get everything set back up.
- National pulls were Friday and Saturday nights and were well attended.
- Sunday family day went very well with good crowds.
- Changes this year:
 - Track was moved to the north because there was room. The added space to the south of the track was paved and now can be utilized for church parking. The added space also helped pullers have more room to stage.
 - The west tent layout was changed which helped patron traffic flow better.
 - Two east admission windows were added and helped keep lines moving.
 - New rented parking lot lightning great improved visibility.

A question was asked on how attendance this year differed from last year. Lynn answered she didn't have the numbers, but she would check. She knew it was at near capacity both nights, but we probably didn't meet the same numbers as last year due to Thursday night's cancellation.

NOTE: It was requested we obtain a machine to separate tickets for the 50/50 raffle to be more efficient.

Harvest Moon Committee – Bethany Brincks

- Last year profits were just under \$50,000. We had a huge committee turnover and switched up games and the layout. This year is not going to be any different. We lost a few long-term members and are looking to gain a few. We are always looking for volunteers and committee members. Our meetings are going to be starting up soon. The event date this year is October 22 and the 2023 date is October 21.

Fish Fry Committee – Denise Brincks

- This year's fish fry profited \$33,755 from six fish fries.
- We served 3,731 dinners in-house and takeout.
- Second largest season to date.
- The committee would like to request a couple upgrades
 - Purchase new poly resin tables that will be much easier to move around.
 - A power upgrade in the school kitchen to eliminate popping breakers.
- Wish list and vision would be a new auditorium multipurpose building with a kitchen large enough for our ever-growing fish fries.
- Upcoming fish fry season begins every Friday during Lent: February 24 through March 31.

Parish Mission Planning – Patrick Berg

- Our first goal was to develop a technology team, which we have accomplished. The next goal involves creating a marketing position. Actually, marketing our parish is vital to the success of the whole entire plan. Our geographical area is exploding with new families which gives us the opportunity to evangelize and increase our parish family. This could happen if the marketing goal is achieved.
- Currently we are working on creating a job description for a potential marketing position so that the Finance Council can discuss it and come up with a plan.

Living Justice Committee – Becky Lewin

- **Bake sales:** Since 2009, we have given \$30,000 to area charities. Our bake sales now bring in between \$250 and \$450 each month. We collected \$2,600 from the bake sales last year.
- **Freedom Food Pantry:** St. Edward is now coordinating with the Freedom Food Panty. Every month we will collect non-expired, non-glass items and deliver them to the pantry. They will let me know if there is something specific, they are looking for.
- **Flowers:** We deliver flowers for friends at home at Easter and Christmas.

Additional Comments:

Fr. Robert was asked how he liked his first Annual Parish Meeting. He replied,

“It was a lot! I wish more people could have been here to listen to all the effort that goes into keeping a parish alive and how many volunteers get involved in every activity. I would like to see double the attendance next year.

I thank all the presenters here and those who couldn't attend but prepared their reports.

I'm glad I'm part of this community. We are looking into the future. We aren't just worried about right now, but everything that we do is a trajectory of where we want to be in 5 years, in 10 years. In 10 years, we'll have the next generation of people in our church. And when that happens, we'll want to be a community of faith here at St. Edward parish. And from what I've seen, and the little knowledge that I have, I believe that is what we'll have. We are doing a great job and I want to thank everyone for keeping our parish alive for everyone; those who belong to our parish, those who we wish would belong and for others who could be part of our parish. That's the growth we are looking into. Families moving in – what we do will let them know there is a great community here and I want to be a part of that. Let's do it!”

Fr. concluded with the Prayer to St. Joseph. The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Cathy Schwieso