**Ministry Reports for Council on Ministries 4/14/2015**

**Go in Service – Doris Moss & \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

Missions will be meeting to evaluate projects supported in the past and what we want to do in the future.

Scholarship had a pizza making fund raiser. They made $1,300. Scholarship applications are due from students to be turned in by April 15.

Churches that work together on Food 4 Kids have set times for packing bags.

Baskets in the hall by the nursery have been checked on as to who is delivering items.

The collection of groceries for the Siouxland Center has been discontinued. They no longer give out food items.

*Doris*

**Grow in Discipleship – Yvette Boysen & Julie Luhr**

Two youth HOPE groups continue to meet. The group members are getting out into the community doing service projects (most recently collecting food for the food bank and cleaning up the Whittier School grounds and Emerson Park), as well as growing closer together and strengthening their individual faith lives. They will also be discussing membership at St. James.

Nearly 50 people attended BIG Time's Family Easter Celebration.

A BIG Time parent/grandparent meeting was held to discuss classroom expectations, Summer Arts Camp & the need for assistant teachers. BIG Time continues to meet as two classes as we are still lacking leadership to maintain three classrooms.

Mary Ott & I are holding a Safe Sanctuary training on Sunday, April 26.

Jennifer Eckert & I are planning Summer Arts Camp, June 1-5. I encourage everyone to take this opportunity to work with our youth.

*Yvette Boysen*

**HOPE Groups**

Grow in Discipleship

1. HOPE Groups currently meeting

Leadership Training:  Pastor Ryan

Praise These Sweet Devils:  Garrett Thomas and Jamie Upton

Puppy Donuts:  Kristi Christenson

MOPS Steering Team:  Christine Cappetta and Yvette Boysen

MOPS Bible Study:  Christine Cappetta

Caregivers:   Julie Luhr and Jenny Jorgensen

2.  HOPE Groups in-planning

Sermon based in adult Sunday School:  John Carter (June?)

Bible Study:  Sharon Shook (fall)

Others are tentative--stay tuned...

We plan to update Grow in Discipleship bulletin board with photos of HOPE groups' Outreach projects.

I am recruiting a group that will gather to review and talk about how our HOPE groups fulfill St James' mission and vision.

*Julie Luhr*

**Gather in Celebration –Merlyne Smith & \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

An exciting time to sing praise as we had the series of Nobodies and then Easter.  Paul suggested a great song with slight word changes, we called it the "Nobodies Song"

(Sly Stone and Everyday People) We were also challenged by the Easter Song Do You Believe in Love by NewWorldSon  a great song.

New sound wires have been installed, this is a tremendous improvement, this needed to happen before any other "sound or visual" project. Before the very foundation of "sound" was fractured.  Thank you.

In May we will once again provide an outreach praise to Yankton, their team has started and are slowly coming together, what a joy to again share in worship.  We also will have a second praise team step into St. James to broaden our base and hopefully speak to more people through music.  One "style" never speaks to an entire congregation, but the power of music is real.

Many of our members have lost loved ones in the last 60 days, we have supported them and their families, And we have also celebrated retirement, selling homes, anticipating new things for our members.  Cappetta's have had a baby, Kim is expanding an already busy catering business, some have found the joys and realities involved in creating a CD of some of our praise team.

Sales of our CD will not purchase vacation homes for the praise team.

A very special thanks to Miranda and Becky, a praise team must have words and balance to be effective.  Thanks.

*Merlyne*

**Member Care – Sharon Shook & Mary Ferrari**

- No report given.

**Communication and Connection – John Carter & Miranda Galvin**

The procedure for giving announcements seems to be working well. We continue to work from the list of announcements that we (Council on Ministry) created, choosing two or three announcements to highlight each Sunday. In addition, the most recent Prayer Concerns are highlighted. It is helpful, too, if the presenter (usually John) is ready to move right up to the pulpit. In fact, the presenter will, when appropriate, already be seated in the pulpit chair so as to move right up to the pulpit after the opening greeting by Merlyne. This will help the “flow” even more. Also, when Ryan is out of town these “welcoming” and “announcement” procedures will give the service some continuity.

Miranda, Ryan, and I continue to meet monthly to review the announcement topics and discuss any ideas or concerns that are relevant.

John Carter

Miranda Galvin