

# 2019 MINISTRY REPORTS



## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

*Jim Saudargas, Leadership Council*

2019 has been a very exciting year to be a member of Spirit of Joy and the Leadership Council. As I started to write this, I realized that I could not single out any one or two events or ministries as examples of the great work we are doing. Rather, I quickly realized that our congregation has become re-energized to serve God in so many different ways. I would encourage everyone to read the reports that are presented today in order to learn more about the various ministries and teams that are actively involved in living the Word in our community. They are awesome!

Beyond that, I would like to sincerely thank the congregation for their support of the various initiatives of the Leadership Council. It goes without saying, but is worth repeating, that we lead only because you allow us to do so. As a group, we are dedicated to the life and health of Spirit of Joy and continually look to improve both.

On a personal note, I would like to thank the current members of the Leadership Council for their dedication and support:

Barbara Zimmer, Vice President

Steve Schmidt, Treasurer

Mary Ellen Beatty, Secretary

Shana Hales

Marty Collins

Pam Hoepner

Chuck Call

Glenn Prunyi

## PASTOR'S REPORT

*Ryan Gerlach*

From its very inception, SPIRIT OF JOY has always been driven to echo Jesus' call to serve others (Matthew 20:28). 2019 was a year where SOJ renewed this passion and found creative new ways to serve our community and to let our neighbors know of Christ's love.

The year started off strong with the introduction of SOJ's new SERVE TEAM spearheaded by Pete Westlake and Amy Nation. Just in this year alone, around 3,000 people were touched by the SERVE TEAM ministry. Some highlights were serving over 165 families Thanksgiving dinner, sharing over 250 + wristbands with a spirit of love and joy, handing out over 500 reusable straws on Earth Day, and showing up to community events on hot days with popsicles and watermelons for no other reason than to let people know they are loved. The Team also shared God's love by helping with community gardens and visiting patients in rehabilitation centers.

Another highlight was our first annual National Night Out Rock the Block Party. Even though the weather was gloomy, the night was anything but! We had the neighborhood lined up around the building as they responded to our invite to join us for music, food, games, and free school supply care packages. We hosted over 600 people and they stayed and fellowshiped the whole time. There was an energy there that could only be described as the very spirit of joy! It was an incredible night where God was truly present.

Another community invite event that was a first for us was Photos with Santa. Over 70 families showed up to take pictures with Santa, enjoy Christmas cookies and cocoa, make some arts and crafts, and fellowship with other families in the community. It was such a fun-filled festively fantastic night.

SOJ's youth have also exemplified this mission of service, full knowing that they're not just the future of the church but the Church right now. Christ has been shining through them as they give back to SOJ, serve others in the community through various service projects and have been excited to invite their friends with them to youth group. The group is continually growing and even had some upgrades to their room.

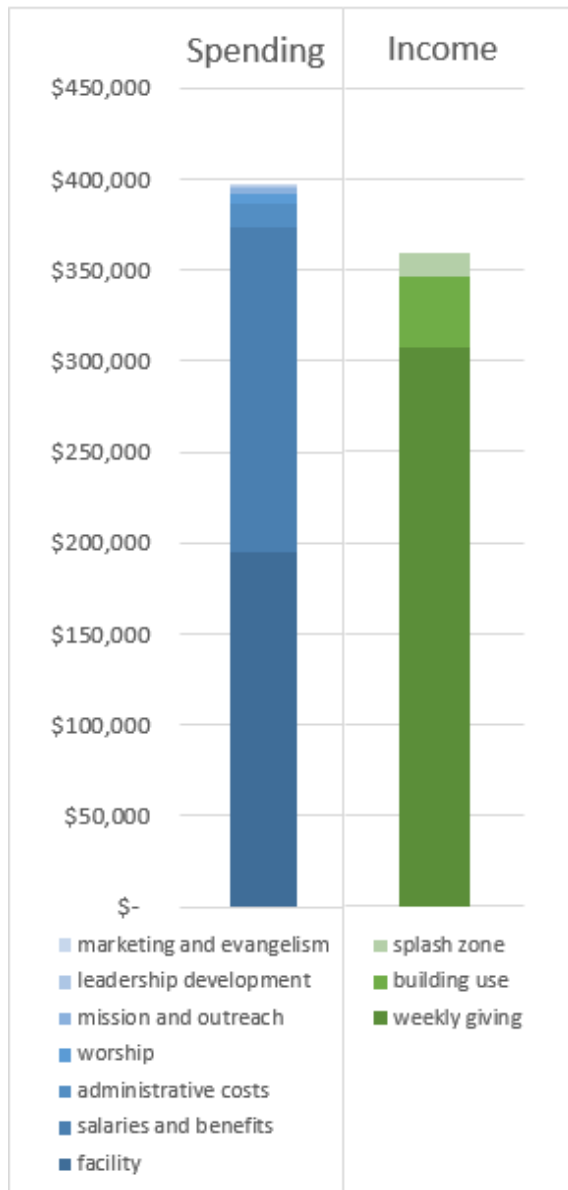
Our children's ministry has been up to some amazing things and reminding us that there is no age limit on how the Gospel message is spread. SOJ was recognized and chosen by GROUP VBS to host and model VBS for other churches in central Florida. Plus, our daily VBS vlogs have been watched 2,000+ times and have been pivotal for sharing God's good news through SOJ's children's ministry. Additionally, their presence in worship is a continued breath of life to our congregation.

SOJ's awesome Converge food ministry continues to provide food to our local food pantries. Our bike ministry continues to build relationships and bikes with our homeless population – and the list goes on and grows on.

God has been good, faithful, and ever-present at SOJ, this year and always. With such a strong emphasis on serving our neighbor in 2019, this has truly been a year where SOJ shines as the lighthouse on Rouse and Colonial. Upon closer inspection, this lighthouse doesn't look anything like a building, but rather a group of people – a people that are deeply committed to embodying Jesus's mission and passion for loving and serving others. I cannot wait to see where God takes us next!

## 2020 SOJ BUDGET REVIEW, *Steve Schmidt*

More details coming in the Congregational Meeting Presentation, but for the purposes of a very high-level summary, here are some key points:



- Including grants and one-time gifts, largely covered the \$50k deficit last year
- Anticipate increased building use and Splash Zone revenue in 2020
- Small but new funding for SOJ ministries
- Deficit budget \$37,687, which is reduced from 2019
- No annual increase in staff wages currently budgeted
- Less support for non-SOJ organizations than desired
- Budget assumptions are purposefully conservative. If we're able to beat them and cover the deficit, we have a broad spending plan to include staff compensation

## MUTUAL MINISTRY TEAM, *Ron Timmermans*

The Mutual Ministry Team functions as SoJ's Human Resource Committee and advises the Leadership Council on HR actions; additionally the Mutual Ministry Team provides support and care for SoJ Staff/Volunteer Leaders and acts as a liaison between SoJ Congregation and the SoJ staff.

### Accomplishments:

- Continued organizational development of the Mutual Ministry Team
  - 1/2 of the team focuses on Human Resource issues, i.e. position descriptions, performance standards & evaluations, hiring staff members, discipline as necessary.
  - 1/2 of the team focuses on emotional support of staff members and interface between congregates and staff members.
  - Established position descriptions for all SoJ staff (salaried) positions
  - Established position description for all volunteer positions, i.e. Committee chairpersons, committee members, etc.
  - Conducted interviews and made recommendations to the Leadership Council for candidates for hiring Bookkeeper position (two times)

### 2020 Actions

- Refine organizational structure of the Mutual Ministry Team and interface with the Leadership Council
- Develop position description, performance standards, and recruit & hire a candidate for Director of Youth Ministry (a part-time contact position)
- Fully develop Performance Standards for each of the SoJ Positions (salaried positions as well as volunteer positions.)
- Other activities assigned by the Leadership Council

## WORSHIP ARTS, *Jose Aenlle*

The purpose of the Worship Arts Ministry is to lead the congregation into a connection with God through music as indicated by the scriptures (Psalm 150). In addition, our goal is to use technology and modern musical techniques to craft our worship environment and enhance the worship experience.

**Who does your ministry serve?** The congregation, both long time members and new visitors. The Worship experience plays a major role as to whether the person decides to stay and become a member of the congregation.

**How many people has your ministry served?** Our entire congregation as well as the surrounding communities when our church has special events outside of worship.

### How did your ministry change or develop from 2018 to 2019?

#### Positive:

1. We have had a greater interest in younger members joining our group.
2. We have made had fewer people complain about the amplitude levels during services.
3. We have made major upgrades to the sound and organization of our audio.
4. We've increased the quality of our audio for the online streaming, still not perfect but greatly improved.
5. We began to implement more complex and professional worship techniques and automating tasks for a better worship experience.

#### Negative:

1. The Tech Booth Director position (Travis) has been cut to 10 hours a week. This leaves us time to only do the worship services and makes it increasingly difficult or impossible to do weekly maintenance or upgrades of any kind.
2. Still need to get more control over the lighting rig for not only a better worship experience but regular use of our lights in the space (*need placed in 2020 budget*).
3. There has been a decline in our volunteers for the tech booth despite the fact that we continuously announce we need help. If we are able to get more volunteers and train them to operate our equipment, it will dramatically increase the quality of our services in-house and online.

### **TOTAL GOD STORY: Worship Ministry - Episode 1: God Is In Control!**

I was transferred over the summer to teach from the Valencia music department to the Sound and Technology department. There I began some training that proved useful for our ministry. Valencia College has played a big role in how our ministry functions and enhancing our worship space. They have provided me thousands of dollars worth of training that I have been able to apply to our worship services. Without realizing, what started as a regular teaching position outside the church became an intense training program to completely change the sound of our worship at no cost to our ministry. God is in control!

### **Episode 2: Christmas**

2019 Christmas Eve service was one of the highest attended and most successful services we've had all year. This is largely due to the upgrades we made in the worship space. For the first time, we didn't hear any complaints about sound or lights, and many people approached or sent me emails about the powerful worship experience they had. This was the first service where we implemented all the worship upgrades and changes. We also had new song arrangements for a more modern approach to traditional songs. In addition, this service featured the Spirit of Joy Youth Worship band that led worship during communion. In partnership with ASM Studios, we are helping in training tomorrow's worship leaders.

## **DIGITAL MEDIA MINISTRY, Jose Aenlle**

The purpose of the Digital Media Ministry is to provide a high-quality multimedia experience and reach audiences outside of Spirit of Joy. Currently we make everything from supplemental videos for the sermon, advertisement for various ministries, special event videos, music videos, and more- all to send the message of Christ to as many as possible through the internet. This ministry also partners with Worship Arts to have editors and camera operators to livestream our Sunday Worship Services.

**Who does your ministry serve?** The congregation both online and on location. This ministry also serves the Splash Zone Preschool and provides the Pastor and Congregation with content for Worship.

**Online viewership numbers for Sunday worship services:** Our online attendance has increased by 22% from 2018 to 2019.

Description	2018	2019
Subscribers	73	275
Total Views	7,181	49,199
Watch Time (hrs)	631.2 hours	3,107.1 hours

*\*According to YouTube statistics 2018 vs. 2019*

### **How did your ministry change or develop from 2018 to 2019?**

Since 2018 was the first year of this ministry, it was a lot of trial and error. In 2019, projects are carefully crafted, equipment and software is much more familiar, and Valencia College has graciously invited us to use their facilities for any projects necessary. The partnership with the college has allowed us to do things that wouldn't be possible due to having access to millions of dollars worth of equipment. Moving forward, it would be excellent to dedicate a room or space at Spirit of Joy to the Digital Media Ministry in order to produce faster videos for Sunday services, such as announcements and other weekly episodes of our outreach programming.

### **What are 2-3 highlights or success stories?**

It was wonderful to experience ELCA Churches from across our country contacting Spirit of Joy to ask permission to use the "Martin Luther According To Kids" video. In addition, the national church promoted our video and channel in their social platforms.

VBS Kids also contacted us after watching our VBS Daily vlogs to continue to partner with Spirit of Joy in providing donations and materials to keep our church as a training site for other churches during the summer. This has proven to be an amazing support for our Children's Ministry in the further development of the Vacation Bible School experience.

## **CHILDREN'S MINISTRY, *Laura Aenlle and Melissa Casebolt***

The purpose of the Children's Ministry is to teach God's word and show God's love to the youngest members of our congregation as they develop the foundation of their faith.

**Sunday School:** The number of children that join us every weekend remains steady, between 16 to 20 students; this includes the Nursery, PreK - 2nd and 3rd - 5th grade. We have four Sunday School teachers that have signed up to teach once a month, and our children rotate to serve as Acolytes during worship service.

The highlights of our ministry are always Vacation Bible School and the Christmas Musical. Even though these are both huge projects that involve many volunteers and months of preparation, the payoff from all the hard work is priceless.

**Vacation Bible School:** The week of VBS is a platform for the children of our church and community to grow in their faith through a week of transformative experiences. 63 children joined us this year. In 2019, Spirit of Joy was chosen (out of several Florida churches that applied) to host a VBS training workshop for other churches called a FunShop. The company that sponsored the training session, Group VBS, chose SOJ because our online presence and video blog had such a big impact. As compensation for hosting the FunShop, we received \$300 worth of decorations, a \$100 Walmart gift card, and an \$800 credit to fund VBS-specific materials. Additionally, we got to keep all the crafts created during the FunShop event. With the generous resources provided by Group VBS and the \$25 registration fee to attend, expenses for VBS significantly decreased last year.

**Christmas Musical:** The musical continues to build on the children's faith and gives them the opportunity to break out of their shell and use their talents to share the Good News. 18 children participated in 2019. Having the children learn all their play lines, songs and hand-motions serves the purpose of the musical and more. Families become more involved, children's self-esteem soar, and meaningful connections are made by those participating.

A few of our other smaller projects include First Communion, Easter Egg hunt, 40 days of giving, and Toys for the Dominican Republic. As a service project, we visited the Fairways and provided the entertainment for their Annual Christmas Party. Finally, we had our own Children's Ministry Christmas party at Adam and Melissa Casebolt's home. This takes place the weekend after the musical. We gather and celebrate an amazing year in our ministry. All are always welcome.

## INFINITY YOUTH, *Shana Hales*

- Under the direction of Ryan Gerlach, Mary Emery, and Shana Hales, the Infinity Youth Group is strong and thriving at SOJ. We are blessed to have consistent hands-on assistance from Adam Casebolt and Mark Hales. It takes a village to walk with our youth every day in their faith formation journeys.
- We have grown in size to 24 kids, which now consists of an equal # of middle and high schoolers. The group meets together with organized Conformation lessons twice a month, as well as other activities including service projects, fundraising for Lutherock, trips, and fellowship events.
- The **purpose** is simple yet so important! The youth consider this group their safe place, their no-judgement zone, and a place where they can grow up together and walk in faith together. In a world full of judgement and high expectations, our SOJ youth yearn for a group of their own and are proud of what they stand for. God's Promise, Love and Grace shines in everyone one of them.
- We have grown leaps and bounds in 3.5 years. Starting with only 6 kids, we are now 24 strong. In 2017 we sent 3 kids to Lutherock which is a faith formation confirmation camp. In 2018, we sent 6 and last year, in 2019, we sent 9 kids and 3 chaperones. Through our fundraising efforts throughout the year, the youth are able to attend this camp for very little out of pocket money, allowing no one to be left behind.
- The Youth Room was the recipient of some amazing renovation work in 2019, which will help us grab the interests of more youth as friends will want to bring friends and more lives can be touched by God's Love at SOJ.
- Going into 2020, the Mutual Ministries Team has been asked by the Leadership Team to start the search for a part time Youth Director/Minister. The growing size of the youth group is quickly needing more time and energy spent on the group than our amazing volunteers can give.

## SPLASH ZONE PRESCHOOL, *Laura Aenlle*

Our little Preschool has always been a non-profit outreach ministry of Spirit of Joy since its inauguration. We are a Christ-centered learning environment where children ages 6 weeks to 4-years-old are educated and nurtured to ensure an overall positive academic and spiritual journey. We take pride in our safe and welcoming environment where children feel loved, grow in their knowledge of the Bible, and develop physically, mentally, socially, spiritually and emotionally.

Our school year starts in August and ends in May, so in 2019 we got to see the tail-end of last year's students graduate, and a new group of families join our roster in August. On average, our registration numbers remain steadily between 25 ~ 30 students, with a capacity of 40. Our events calendar is very active, with one or two school events/projects taking place each month. Our most prominent events take place during Christmas and at the end of May. Last May, we celebrated Parent's Day with a heartfelt play called "I Love You Forever" and we hosted a PreK Graduation ceremony as our 4 and 5-year-olds reached the first milestone in their academic careers. Children graduate our program with key skills for success in grade school such as: reading level 1 books, 90% knowledge of the required sight words, bilingual vocabulary, number sense up to 100, knowledge of their physical world and more. At Christmas, we celebrated Pancakes with Santa and the children did an excellent job providing the entertainment. They worked hard learning their songs and hand-motions; and even though they were more nervous than most years, their performance was adorable.

This school year we wanted to make our Chapel Time more exciting and we were able to accomplish our goal. With the use of technology, it is now a more streamlined weekly activity. Also, with the participation of devoted church members, we had real life Bible characters visit us on several occasions. We wish to continue this trend

in the upcoming year. Furthermore, the Preschool Committee continues to be a strong supporter and invaluable resource to the school. Their support this past year has significantly enhanced communication and financial decision making. We are very grateful for their support through the bumps encountered during the year.

### **CONVERGE, Katherine Smith**

**Participants:** Mitz & Bernie Oates, Marsha & Chuck Call, Art & Leann Freiburger, Bob & Diane Belk, Kyra Smith.

**Purpose:** To provide a sorting and distribution point of non-perishable food and sundry items between two collector groups, Eastwood CAN and Waterford CAN, as well as three food banks, The Samaritan Resource Center, Faith United Methodist and Woodbury Presbyterian.

**Who does your ministry serve?** Families-in-need and homeless individuals in our East Orlando area.

**How many people has your ministry served?** An estimated 300 to 350 per week.

**How did your ministry change or develop from 2018 to 2019?** Collections decreased 14% from 2018 to 2019; from an estimated 30,812 pounds to 26,369 pounds. SOJ's contributions decreased 48% YoY from 1,569 pounds to 820 pounds. Katherine stepped in as the Converge leader in October 2019 after Renita Kitchen left SOJ. Pastor Ryan and Katherine have a plan to course-correct the donation decline in 2020.

**What are 2-3 highlights or success stories?**

- Converge partnered with the SOJ Serve Team for a Thanksgiving Turkey Drive for Faith United.
- Converge partnered with Thrivent to host a luncheon to thank past leadership and our contributors, Eastwood Can and Waterford CAN.
- Waterford CAN donated 100 Thanksgiving and 100 Christmas Dinners.

### **SERVE TEAM, Pete Westlake and Amy Nation**

Matthew 23:11. "The greatest among you will be your servant."

The Serve Team started in 2019 and by the grace of GOD we touched over 3,000 people in our greater Orlando community. Our purpose is to serve our extended community without expectation. Ultimately this ministry provides SOJ members with opportunities to serve, helps our community, models Christ's view of serving others and may potentially lead people to know Christ; if not with us then with another church. By the numbers we: completed 9 Servant events, distributed 12 youth and 63 adult Spirit of Joy serve team shirts to SOJ volunteers, 165 needy families received a full thanksgiving dinner, 250+ wrist bands delivered to elementary students and parents, 500 reusable straws delivered on Earth day, 1,250 door hangers delivered advertising Spirit of Joy events, 1,800 slices of watermelon cut and delivered to tired runners.

Our goal for 2020 is to have at least one serve event per month. We would like to create more diversity in who and where we serve. We hope to add serve events that will help the homeless, single parents, and elderly. We hope to increase those that serve and those we serve by 20%.

### **PARISH NURSE/HEALTH MINISTRY**

*Holly Jezek, RN, CNOR, Parish Nurse*

**Participants:** Pastor Ryan Gerlach (Spiritual leader/advisor), Amy Nation (DO physician advisor), Lisa Fowler (RN), Mary Rose Metzler (RN), Marsha Call (retired), Shana Hales (RN), Quaidie Hock (retired), Ellen Rendle (spiritual support), Marty Collins (Stephens Ministry)

The mission of our ministry is to support and promote Christ-centered health and wellness for the church body. This ministry serves Spirit of Joy and all its members, as well as surrounding neighbors through outreach and programs to come. The Parish Nurse Ministry is only a year old. Since we launched, I have recruited 2 wonderful nurses with complementary nursing experiences, Lisa Fowler and Mary Rose Metzler. Our immediate goal was to start out slow; be available to answer questions and take blood pressures. Since recruiting other nurses, we are starting to focus on topics each month that educate and encourage health and wholeness.

Personally, I have served over a dozen members with blood pressure checks, questions answered, referrals made and some hands-on nursing interventions. I had so much fun last February with my heart quiz. We have broached a few topics, like men's health, breast cancer awareness and heart health. One incident involving a church member falling confirmed to me that our first aid kit is good for small issues but needs to be expanded. We will be working on that early in 2020. We look forward to a new year with hopes for a health fair, women's seminar and men's seminar, among the topics we hope to cover. We also plan to do a health survey to determine the needs of the congregation.

### **BICYCLE MINISTRY, *Ken Raue***

Participants: Rick Hoepner and Brent Daum are SoJ member volunteers. Brent joined team in 2019.

The Purpose: To recycle bicycles to those in need of basic transportation. Our clients are the homeless, the unemployed, the underemployed, and those who are financially and mechanically challenged.

The Bike Shop was open on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of each month from January to June and September through November from 9:00 AM to Noon. During the year, Lynx, St Cloud Police Dept, UCF Police and several individuals have donated bikes to the ministry. Through the sale of scraped bikes and monetary donations, the bike ministry received \$225, which was used to purchase replacement tools, lubricants, tube patch kits and bike parts such as tubes, tires, cables, and handlebar grips. We also received donations of seats, helmets, locks and other parts from United Methodist of Winter Park when they closed their bike ministry. In 2019, we distributed 105 bikes and repaired 20 bikes for people who could not afford repairs at a commercial bike shop. During the summer, our storage trailer was stolen from the North parking lot with about 20 bikes inside. A police report was filed.

### **NATIONAL NIGHT OUT, *Mary Ellen Beatty***

National Night Out is an annual community building campaign that encourages local neighborhoods to form better relationships with one another. In 2019, SOJ chose to participate in this national event for the first time to live out our mission to serve others and be the hands and feet of Christ in our community. We hosted a Back to School Bash at the church in August where we served 607 meals and distributed 79 care packages filled with school supplies to families in East Orlando. We also offered family entertainment including live music, face painting, cornhole, photos with an Orange County Sheriff police vehicle and lots of laughs with our clown ministry. Due to some generous corporate sponsorships from Chick-fil-A, Wal-Greens, Publix and UCF, we were able to keep costs low for this event. Next year, we plan to expand our community partnerships and sponsorships so we can fund more care packages and continue to be a light on the corner of Rouse and Colonial.

### **PHOTOS WITH SANTA, *Mary Ellen Beatty***

Spirit of Joy hosted a Christmas-themed event open to the community, which featured a photo backdrop for families to take pictures with Santa Clause. The purpose was to spread the joy of the Christmas season with our neighbors while also promoting our Christmas programs and services to the public. Roughly 75 people attended, many of whom were connected to SOJ through our various partnerships: ASM Studios, Splash Zone Preschool, Scouts, Christmas musical, etc. We served cookies and hot cocoa and had an activities table set up

for children to do Christmas-themed crafts. Additionally, this event inspired us to decorate the church lobby and launch a new holiday tradition— the Christmas Tree Gallery. We received lots of positive feedback from SOJ members, visitors and community members that the Tree Gallery made the church seem more inviting and uplifting.

### **ANGEL TREE MINISTRY, *Maria Belk***

The Angel Tree Ministry is an annual community outreach program that provides Christmas gifts for children in two neighboring elementary schools. The recipients are mostly from homeless families but also low-income households ranging in age from 6 to 11-years-old. Spirit of Joy has participated in this outreach ministry for multiple years. The team is responsible for obtaining the list of children and then encouraging members of the congregation to “adopt” a child which involves purchasing one unwrapped gift, no more than \$25, and then ensuring they are returned to church. Once the gifts are collected, they are taken over to the two neighboring elementary schools. In prior years we have collected presents for between 35 to 60 children. The team also collects gift cards given by members of the congregation to be distributed by the pastor at his discretion to families in need.

### **DRAMA TEAM, *Sandy Gaston***

The mission of the Drama Team is to open hearts and minds to receive the Word through skits previously videotaped or performed live during worship. Our creative process includes writers collaborating with worship leaders, Bible study, brainstorming, and co-editing, followed by a structured rehearsal schedule with actors and a director. Anyone of any age with a willingness to participate in performance projects should make your interest known to Doug and Sandy Gaston.

The Drama Team has historically been self-sustaining and operated without a church budget. Our future dreams for the Drama Team include full-length productions with name recognition that could either tour or serve as an outreach performed in The Gathering Room or The Worship Center. This would require paying royalties estimated between \$500 and \$2,000. No specific title has been identified at this time. We welcome further dialogue about the ongoing Drama Ministry.

### **PRAYER TEAM, *Ina Wheeler***

The Prayer Team currently has seven members: Ina Wheeler, Ellen Randle, Holly Jezek, Pam Hoepner, Bim Dove, Ken Raue, and Al Morris. We lost two members of our team in 2019, Al Jones and Rick Robles, due to relocation. We have three prayer stations located in the sanctuary each Sunday where our Prayer Partners are happy to pray for anyone that has a special need. We also have a prayer chain for emergencies. Please let the Pastor know if you have a prayer request and he will let us know to get the chain going. We are planning a meeting for a Sunday in February after worship and we welcome anyone that would like to join our team. We will let you know as soon as we have a date.

### **SCOUTS, *Chuck Call***

SOJ is now sponsoring a Cub Scout Pack and a Boy Scout Troop. These groups are financially self-sufficient but the church provides the Gathering Room every Monday evening for the Troop to meet and the Worship Center the first Monday of each month for the Cub Pack to meet. Both groups have offered to do conservation projects for the church.

## **WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB, *Diane Belk***

The Women's Book Club has a long history at SOJ. It began in 1999 with monthly meetings in our homes but eventually transitioned to morning meetings at church. We continue to meet on the third Tuesday of the month in The Inlet at 10 a.m. We are a social group. This year we read all popular fiction, but 2020 already includes two non-fiction titles. Sometimes the books are great and, sometimes, not so great, but the discussions are always interesting. One of the highlights of our year is contributing an Easter basket to SOJ's Youth Group for their annual fundraiser. (And, yes, the basket always includes a bookstore gift card among the goodies.) Another highlight is our annual luncheon in December at a local restaurant. We are a small group and would welcome other women to join us. Current members are Diane Belk, Quaidie Hock, Leann Freiburger, Mitz Oates, Kathy Raue, Pam Rousseau, Karen Saudargas, and Roswitha Wheeler.

## **SOJ MAMA'S BOOK CLUB, *Mary Emery***

We have an average of 6 women who attend. We meet the third Friday of every month at a different restaurant to discuss a chosen book and enjoy fellowship. We as moms enjoy this monthly outing to discuss what is going on in our personal lives and get advice from each other.

## **ADULT LITERACY LEAGUE *Mitz Oates***

Adult Literacy League helps individuals of all ages to read, write and speak in English. The Adult Literacy League offers small group instruction and one-on-one tutoring. I tutor a young lady from Colombia and it is exciting to see her communication skills have progressed to the level that she is now ready to take her citizenship test. If you want to help change the life of an individual, please consider being an Adult Literacy volunteer.

## **OFFICIAL SOJ MASCOT *Ziva***

This year was simply paw-fect! I've been watching SOJ and it's awesome ministries from the barking lot – and I have to say – with God anything is paw-sible. You all need to raise the woof and celebrate all the good things God is doing at and through SOJ. You have tapped into your pet-tential and really made this year rebarkable. Keep up the good work and always remem..... Squirrel!!!

