

**Women of Hillside**  
**Saturday, August 14 Planning Meeting**

In attendance: Jennifer Pepperly, Beth Vaughan, Emily Gail Miller, Whitney Garner, Heather Blevins

**Role Changes:**

We welcomed Emily Gail Miller who has agreed to take point on decorations for events.

Rachel will be stepping away from the Leadership Team to focus on Children's Ministry and Family commitments. She has offered to do one last on-line marketplace so that we have some funding going into 2022, hopefully we will be able to find someone to shadow her on this so that that person will be able to step in to run things for the Spring market.

Amy Holt will be the new MOPS liaison in addition to her role as Preschool Liaison. All questions/concerns regarding MOPS should be funneled through her.

**Old Business:**

Amy and Amina have met with MOPS, and they have a tentative budget of \$1000. Amina has communicated that W of H needs to approve this. We have learned that the original agreement was not intended to be so costly but childcare costs increased dramatically due to several changes since that time, and also that most other MOPS chapters do not have the level of sponsorship that we have been providing in the past. The feeling is that, while MOPS can be a good outreach for W of H, it is just not sustainable for us to continue to support at the current level. The consensus was that we should do what we can to help MOPS with an amount to be determined when we have our budget meeting, however the feeling is that we need to be working toward helping MOPS to become financially independent of W of H. We can continue to promote each others' events, and we can offer help in the form of our experiences with fundraising to help them achieve this goal. We also touched on the possibility of giving them a small percentage of Marketplace profits in exchange for them using their channels to boost the advertising signal for the Marketplace. (See Marketplace below).

The LNO for August 17 has been cancelled due to lack of interest and refunds have been initiated through ACS.

Emily Gail and Heather, as the decorations and food folks, will take care of sorting through/organizing the closet. There are a number of items in there that look like they might belong to Worship, so they will check with Linda and Chris before disposing of anything in question.

Everyone was in agreement that all retreat funds we are holding onto should be refunded at this point.

Remainder of 2021:

Surveys - The idea of conducting a survey to determine the wants/needs of the Hillside membership in terms of Women's events. Beth has already completed a draft of that. It was also brought up that many of our members, especially our older ladies, are not on FaceBook or other Social Media. As it is important to include their voice as well, we will be offering the survey in a paper format as well as online.

Parking Lot Party - In lieu of rescheduling taco night, we have reserved the Gathering Area for September 14 for a Parking Lot Party - fee-free event with general chit-chat and S'mores kits, Leadership Team members will be available to mingle and talk about upcoming events, and we will find ways to let ladies know what opportunities exist for Women at Hillside. Also an opportunity to make sure everyone's had a chance to respond to the survey. As this is the same night the Food Pantry has their weekly pick-up, Church Leadership has asked us to be intentional in inviting those ladies by handing out personal invitations on September 7th at the Food Pantry.

On-line Marketplace - It was mentioned that shipping companies are already struggling with on-time delivery and this is only expected to get worse as the holidays approach. To that end, mid-October was suggested for the On-line Marketplace to ensure that customers receive their packages in time for the Holidays. Rachel has requested that we do it the week of October 11. We feel we may be able to increase our pricing a little this time, especially if we can give vendors the additional value of MOPS advertising help. (See MOPS above).

Retreat - the decision was made that in light of Covid uncertainty and the recent lack of LNO participation, we really can't afford to risk money for a paid speaker this year. We also had learned that another large church had already begun advertising an on-site retreat for our dates. We had not yet committed to the paid speaker, so we will not lose any funds by cancelling. I asked Rachel to please let her know we would definitely keep her in mind for future events. Denise Roberts has recently approached about an Advent study she has been working on that could possibly be done as an on-site retreat sometime in November. Jennifer will follow up with Denise about what that might look like and her availability to determine possible dates. Officially, the material will need to go through vetting as a matter of church policy, that process is already underway regardless of whether we choose to present it as a retreat at this time.

Shop for Mom - Beth will follow up with Susan Coker to find out if that will be in-person this year or will again be virtual.

Meet-ups - Beth is working on which Meet-up groups are still meeting. It appears that Book Club, Service, and Women of Teens and Young Adults are continuing on. She is checking on Mom's of children with Special Needs, and is also reaching out to Hugs Blanket Ministry to see if they would be interested in being included on our list of opportunities.

Ideas we would like to ask about:

Spiritual Programming - Denise Roberts has expressed to Jennifer that she is feeling led back toward Women's Ministries, though not necessarily as a member of the Leadership Team. The team members discussed that the area we feel weakest in is Spiritual Programming for our

events. We would like to ask Denise's help with this area. Not that she would be approached as the speaker for all events, but she has the connections and knowledge of what will engage the interest of our ladies in this area. Jennifer will approach her to see if she is willing to take this role on, either formally or informally.

2022 In-person Marketplace - We would like to check with Jenny to see if it would be at all feasible for WofH to run a vendor market area as part of the Fall Festival instead of a separate market day. If this is possible, it would give our vendors a ready-made audience, and be an additional draw for Festival Attendees - win-win for both ministries.

We would like to talk with Dorcas to find out how we can learn of needs within the church to better support our members, especially things like families needing meals if they aren't connected to a small group that is already handling that.

2022:

In order to engage more of our ladies in a way that does not stress the team's financial and human resources, we have developed a calendar of more low-key, low-cost events that are not largely dependent on a certain level of attendance to be successful. We will focus on just a couple of large-scale ticketed events. This calendar also gives us a good mix of day and nighttime events so that our ladies who don't get out at night can feel included. The hope is that we can build out teams to run these events and bring the Leadership Team into a place where we only need to conduct quarterly meetings to guide things along.

Monthly pot-luck breakfasts - We have tentatively set the Second Saturday morning for a pot-luck breakfast - a time to connect with a short devotional and/or hands-on service project each month.

Holiday Side-Swap - an evening pot-luck dinner giving ladies guinea pigs for their new holiday recipes in advance/opportunity to pick up new recipes to try. The idea being that you bring your dish along with several copies of the recipe to share. We hope to do this in advance of Easter and again in advance of the Thanksgiving/Christmas holidays. Each dinner will be accompanied by an appropriately-themed holiday message.

We will repeat this year the Mother/Daughter Tea, the Lent Clean-out Challenge, the Spring and Fall on-line Marketplaces (hopefully adding in-person for the Fall), and a low-key evening dessert event in mid-August.

Proposed Calendar:

January - 8th - Second Saturday Potluck Breakfast - Fellowship Hall? (9-11)

February - 12th - Second Saturday Potluck Breakfast

March - 2nd - Beginning of Lent Clean-out Challenge  
12th - Second Saturday Potluck Breakfast

22nd - Easter Holiday Side-Swap (evening, Celebration Hall, time TBD)

April - 9th - Second Saturday Potluck Breakfast

18th-24th - Online Spring Marketplace

May - 14th - Mother/Daughter Tea (in lieu of monthly Breakfast) tentatively 11:00-1:00 in Celebration Hall - Ticketed Event

June - 11th - Second Saturday Potluck Breakfast

July - 9th - Second Saturday Potluck Breakfast

August - 13th Second Saturday Potluck Breakfast

16th - Evening Dessert Event - Celebration Hall

September 10th - Second Saturday Potluck Breakfast

October - 8th - Second Saturday Potluck Breakfast

TBD - Holiday Marketplace - either in conjunction with Fall Festival or separate dates

November - 10th Thanksgiving/Christmas Holiday Side-Swap (evening, Celebration Hall, time TBD)

12th - Second Saturday Potluck Breakfast

December - 10th - Second Saturday Potluck Breakfast

Shop-for-Mom TBD