

How does your garden grow....

In 1945, when a group of avid gardeners formed the Little Flower Garden Club at St. Sebastian's, they certainly chose an appropriate name.

Their mission statement defined their ministry as aiming to stimulate knowledge and understanding of all growing things. Further, they wanted to help promote gardening and conservation efforts in the parish and community.

Today the group continues to acknowledge their patron, Saint Theresa, the Little Flower, by starting their monthly meetings with a prayer to the saint, said chairman Diane Underwood, who has led the group for the past eight years.

Officially the club has 31 members, but as many long-time participants have aged, about half that number generally attend meetings.

So what does the garden club do? Diane said that, besides business meetings, which include socializing, there are usually three workshops and two road trips a year. The group also contributes financially to projects, recently having donated funds for the arbor for the parish Cutting Garden.

Of late the most frequent the workshop leader has been Mary Beth Breckenridge, the Home and Garden writer for the Akron Beacon Journal. Whether the gardening guru gives tips on flower arranging or related topics, Diane said, "she's so much fun and we learn so much."

In keeping with the educational aspect of their ministry the group welcomes non-members to its workshops. "We're always open to guests," Diane said, "but people need to make reservations since we always provide lunch." She advises those interested to watch the church bulletin for announcements, "We put in two notices before the workshops in November, April and July."

Gardeners get to show off their talents in a competition in July. Ribbons are awarded for first, second and third places.

As for the road trips, in June the group shopped at Petitti's Garden Center in Strongsville, before going to lunch. This month they visited the Kent State Costume Museum.

And whether or not you have gardening experience, prospective members are encouraged to join the group. Diane Underwood can be reached at 330-864-4893 or dianeunderman@att.net.

Coming: I'm a member of what?

