

Welcoming, Fellowship and Growth Ministry Annual Report for 2009

Communications Committee members: Vandy Bradow and Carol Clark (newsletter editorial board), Shannon Core, Sue Cottle, Aurora Gregory, Carolyn King, Dot Littleton, Ann McLaughlin (chair), Lavon Page (webmaster), Anne Pope, Nancy Stoddard, Margot von Harten

Fellowship Committee members: Sue Cottle, Vivian Hunter, Joan McAllister, Sue Rogge, Jennifer Wells (no chair)

Growth Committee members: Ed and Ruth Klemmer, Roger Manus, Jane Smith (chair), Jennifer Wells

What we learned:

- * CUCC cares deeply about supporting and including families with children in the life of the congregation, but aren't very good at this yet. Understanding and acting on this commitment is a WFG priority for 2010.
- * CUCC has a new generation of retired people with different needs, habits, and preferences from those who retired more than a decade ago. Each generation is in transition, and existing fellowship groups (Communications Committee, Retired Peoples' Group, Monday Lunch Group) are discerning how to meet respond.
- * The Vaughan Wing was built to house the Total Life Center and includes the Fellowship Hall, a small office, and kitchen upgraded to institutional status. The Wing (not the Fellowship Hall) was named for Dr. Lillian Lee "L.L." Vaughan, a professor of Mechanical Engineering at NCSU and beloved member of United Church, our downtown predecessor.

What we did:

Building relationships

- * Encouraged Ministries to offer child care during their events, and used bulletin boards, family emails via Anne Bailey, and personal contact to encourage families to take advantage of the offer. Trained several teens for child care using interim Safe Church policy. Ministries arranged childcare for: two All Things Congo events, Auction, Turkey Dinner/Variety Show. Ministries offered to arrange childcare if requested for: one 9-10:30 Sunday/month, Ash Wednesday worship, Maundy Thursday worship, Advent Meditation event, Adult Christmas party.
- * Assessed nursery safety (Maggie Leidheiser-Stoddard) and requested removal of crib unit.
- * Continued Fellowship Hour, coordinators now serve quarterly (Ed & Ruth Klemmer, Sue Cottle, Joan McAllister, Gretchen Aycock, coordinators). **Many thanks to Ed and Ruth for their years of service bringing Fellowship Hour from a new ministry to a favorite event of each week.**
- * Invited members to donate frozen cookies for Fellowship Hour: Cookie Fairies (Joan McAllister).
- * Honored Mary Pickering at the January Congregational Meeting Lunch.
- * Sponsored P2e, the watermelon seed spitting contest in July.
- * Sponsored CUCC's Fall Picnic, October 12.
- * Sponsored the Adult Christmas Party.
- * Sponsored ONA 20th anniversary celebration.
- * Continued Traditional Worship Greeters (Sue Cottle).

- * Sent personal notes to guests who provided their contact information in the Caring Rolls (Carol Clark, Jane Smith & Jennifer Wells).
- * Offered May Newcomers' Brunch (cancelled due to low request) and September Newcomers' Supper.
- * Sponsored Fellowship Hour celebration welcoming new members in March.
- * Suggested phrases for greeting those new to you in the pew (through newsletter).

Communicating what's up

- * Prepared for flu season with our guide "Taking care of each other during flu season," a ministry moment, hand sanitizer throughout the building, food serving changes.
- * Initiated an Emergency Contact List (under development by Ann McLaughlin and Anne Pope).
- * Encouraged the Ministries to set their calendar for the year at their February meetings so that Council could review the calendar in late February; invited the Ministries to schedule an event on Fifth Sunday after worship.
- * Discontinued bulk mailing of newsletter, moving to electronic version except to those requesting pick up of print version. **Many thanks the Communications Committee for their years of service preparing the bulk mailings.**
- * Completed annual winter website routine maintenance.
- * Initiated heavier reliance on social networking tools to expand communication among members. While the Climate Blog was deleted because of inactivity, traffic on the News and Chat blog increased significantly. Linkages to Facebook and Twitter uses at CUCC were added to the front page. In addition we increased the ties between the News and Chat blog and the front page by expanding the use of the "Upcoming Events" section of the front page to publicize events described in detail in the blog. (Lavon Page and Jane Smith)
- * Sponsored "Social Networking & CUCC 101" workshop to introduce CUCC's social networking tools and explain how they are being used in ministry. (Jane Smith and Lavon Page)
- * Prepared large print welcoming brochures (Ed Klemmer).
- * Prepared "Guide to Taizé Worship" which is placed in narthex before each Taizé service to assist those new to this style of worship (Susan Lane and Jane Smith)
- * Revised Caring Roll pads and created "How may we assist you on your spiritual journey" Caring Roll insert for use by guests and members. (Joan McAllister and Jane Smith) **Many thanks to the ushers who graciously accepted many additional responsibilities assisting in welcoming guests.**
- * Posted signs from Narthex to Fellowship Hall (Roger Manus). Requested signs from Dixie Trail parking lot. **Many thanks to Bayard Alcorn for creating and posting the signs.**
- * Maintained: seasonal bulletin board, tract rack & Fellowship Hall information cabinet, glass case, weekly bulletin, monthly newsletter, email alerts. **Many thanks to Carol Clark for her hours of work and especially for her willingness to try something new while reminding us to include those who prefer the tried and true.**

Becoming visible outside our walls

- * Disseminated CUCC calling cards for use in conversation with those beyond CUCC.
- * Sent Jane Smith to UCC Web University workshop.
- * Represented by Joan McAllister at Coming Out Celebration (with Kurk Brewington & Cynthia Ball, cosponsored with Social Justice Ministry).
- * Advertised ONA 20th Anniversary celebration.

This year CUCC experienced the deaths of many beloved members. WFG wishes to thank the CUCC groups who prepared the remembrance receptions to honor these friends and to allow us to grieve together.

Events planned by the Ministries are the heart of where we have fun together.
Many thanks to the Ministries who sponsored these opportunities.

Event	Date	Ministry	Intergenerational
OGHS Celebration potluck	Mar. 29	Community Outreach	yes
All Things Congo Feast	Apr. 6	All Things Congo	yes
Auction	Apr. 25	Stewardship	no
Mudcats game	May 9	Youth group	yes
Graduation celebration	May 17	Deacons, Youth Ed, Youth Group	yes
P2e	July 6	Fellowship	yes
Beat the Heat movie	July 26	Children's Education	yes
Sing-a-long with smores	Aug. 15	Children's Education	yes
Pool party	Aug. 31	Children's Education	yes
Welcome Back potluck	Sep. 13	Religious Education	yes
Creativity Sunday	Sep. 27	Arts in Worship	yes
Fall picnic	Oct. 18	WFG	yes
Turkey dinner & Variety show	Nov. 14	Stewardship & Youth Group	yes
Advent Meditation Event	Dec. 2	Deacons	no
Family Advent Celebration	Dec. 6	Children's Education	no
Adult Christmas Party	Dec. 12	Fellowship	no
ONA 20 th Anniversary	Dec. 20	Fellowship	yes