

ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Annual Report 2009

Goals for 2009

included continued emphasis on quality of Foundational Programs such as Sunday Bible Study (a study of Paul), the series one time per month, "What Do Presbyterians believe," and the noon daily "Lunch 'N Learns"; strengthening the Committee structure through recruitment of a variety of different members of the Church; more sophisticated use of the new Church website to advertise and develop programs; developing better links and relationships through cross-programming and co-sponsorship with other Church Committees such as Art at First, Mission/Service and 60+; and avoiding "over-programming" in any given quarter by focusing energy on one or two special programs or series.

Accomplishments in 2009

A debate on the purpose and the appropriate role of the Committee during several of the early months of the year produced fairly wide agreement that our work was programmatically based with Bible study at its core. It features at base a study of where and how Faith intersects with the world of history, art, politics, the environment (to name only a few areas). Fundamentally we exist to encourage people from both within and outside the Church to engage in discussion, using progressive Christian ideas as a guide.

We began successfully to redefine the role and relationship of the Committee in its work with Art at First. With the scheduling of two "art forums," conversations about art and spirituality on a specific topic usually tied to the most recent art display, the committee asserted itself more authentically as a partner in substance than as a host and provider of food for any given show.

After careful consideration it was decided to attempt to continue Marie Sibilla's "Spa for the Soul" retreat, this year in memory of Marie. On October 24 at Wave Hill in the Bronx, twenty-two joined organizer Kathryn Gotshall English for a day of contemplation. Despite the rain it was hailed as a success and plans to continue next year are already under way.

A full review of the audio/visual equipment used by most church committees for programs and presentations is underway because of various malfunctions.

Goals for 2010

Development of programs in conjunction with Mission/Outreach trips to Peru, Haiti and Mexico to enlist the participation and support of the Church and to raise awareness of the whole community about issues relevant to the country visited.

Focus on development of the new "Pathfinders" Series, a discussion among accomplished people in various fields around a topic of interest to the Church.

Panel Discussions around a theme grounded in scripture. The two currently planned involve "Forgiveness" and "Suffering/Resilience."

Larry Tallamy, Chair; Rev. Barbara Davis, Julia Cato, John Harpole, Janet Harris, Rita Johnson, Kurt Regush, David Wilson, Sally Wong, members.