

HOUSE COMMITTEE

Annual Report 2009

The House Committee again had a very active year in 2009. The first half was spent focusing on house details. New signboards for the front fence were ordered and delivered, providing permanent and coordinated signage for all church signs including Caring Community. The ripped library couch was repaired and re-upholstered, our new security signage prevention system was installed, and many lighting meetings were held. It was finally determined that fluorescent bulbs would not be possible to use in the sanctuary without updating the existing Strand dimming system, but fluorescents could be used everywhere else around the campus.

In the spring Ted Bryant volunteered to create a building/campus maintenance proposal and schedule for the church. This project was ultimately presented to Session in October. and then turned over to The Buildings and Grounds Committee, but luckily Ted has joined our committee as a permanent member.

Prior to learning there would be a delay in the Mellin Macnab Building renovation, the House Committee started the process of a basement clean-out/summer yard sale to purge the building of un-needed items, and early Tartan Fair donations. We also helped The Archive Committee box the entire archive collection readying it for it's move to storage. Archives material still sits packed waiting for it's big move. We have extra copies of vintage *Church Towers* so please take home a piece of First Church, and learn of your heritage. (Copies are available outside Alexander Chapel and 3rd floor of the SW.)

Conserve First ran a six month series of "how to conserve" notices in the bulletin encouraging members to cut back here in the buildings to help save on expenses and to help the church lower it's carbon footprint. In April, in conjunction with Art at First and First Kids, a fantastic plastic bottle and bamboo art installation was created and installed on the south lawn.

Once budget permits, a gifts and memorial book will be created. The research and discussion for a display case and table for this book ran through out the summer and into fall meetings. The current conversation leaves us with a table and Plexiglas cover that will be located in the Narthex or back SE corner of the Sanctuary.

December was spent decorating the campus. In conjunction with the Worship Committee and Tartan Fair, wreaths, garlands, and lights were hung. Trees and poinsettias now extending into the columbarium, all added to the warmth of the season. Many evenings and Saturdays were spent making sure all was just so, and on Twelfth Night after a banquet of Chinese food, breaking down and putting all away. A special thanks to our team leaders: Dean Greer, Rod Thompson, and Mark Robertson.

In 2010 the House Committee will be again focusing on conservation reviewing house policies, as well as updating our hanging artwork inventory. In this year of budget cuts, we still hope to see the carpet and the tile in the SW replaced, as well as a little fresh painting.

Respectfully submitted, Kathie Young, Chair

Committee Members: Ted Bryant, Ben Carter, Lou Anne Gilleland, Eric Hilton, Jackie Fike, Kathryn Ketcham, David Kipin, Diana Pardue, Roderick Thompson, Beth Whitaker, Conserve First Chair, David Pultz, Archives, Barbara Sherman, Art at First.