

MEMBERSHIP AND FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

Annual Report 2011

In 2011, the Membership-Fellowship Committee continued its mission to reach out in service and fellowship to church members, particularly new members, encouraging them to become active participants in the life and worship of First Church. Toward this end, we sponsored five Inquirers Classes, led by Jon Walton and our pastoral staff, bringing our total membership to 1,137. Joan Ryan faithfully organized and attended each of these sessions and was assisted by various members of the committee. Sorrel Alburger was our faithful photographer.

The Membership-Fellowship Committee sponsored many events during the year with food preparation by Jackie Fike and her Food Committee. Marguerite Ruscito and Sarah James took the lead in the kitchen for many of the events this year and will co-chair the Food Committee in the coming year. Among the Food Committee's events were five Inquirers' Brunches, the Annual Meeting Brunch, Soup & Song, Easter Breakfast, and the Welcome Home Picnic. Live musical performances added to the festivities of Soup & Song and the Welcome Home Picnic and made these events lively and memorable. All of the events were well-attended and we are grateful to Jackie, Marguerite, Sarah and helpers for their dedication to fellowship through the sharing of delicious food. We also held two New Member Receptions at the homes of gracious hosts Kara and Langdon Van Norden and Joan and Reade Ryan. Thanks to Kara, Langdon, Joan and Reade for their amazing hospitality.

We hosted another season of summer cookouts, loyally attended by an enthusiastic group, ranging from toddlers to our 60 Plus members. Meg Harper's Qi Gong classes continued to inspire everyone who attended and have grown into a wonderful ongoing church activity. The monthly Fellowship suppers following vespers continue to be a joyful opportunity for worship and fellowship.

The Membership-Fellowship Committee would like to thank: Tony Feliciano and his staff for helping us with the cookouts and with setting up and taking down of all of our events, as well as our regular sign-up tables; Lisa Polite, Mia Alvar and Alice Wade for their incredible pro-activity and support; Sarah McCaslin, who met with us monthly and brought incredible support and great ideas; and the members of this vital committee who came faithfully to every meeting and event with energy, enthusiasm, and humor.

Committee Members: Malcolm Crawford, Jackie Fike, Suzanne Greene, Rebecca Johnson, Oddrun Marrone, Kyongsoo Noh, Jason Reade, Nadya Robinson, Joan Ryan, Leslie Smith, Ryan Tirre and Kara Van Norden.

Heather Mee, Chair

