

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

Annual Report 2011

The Worship Committee would like to express deep appreciation for the many persons who have facilitated “...*the publick worship of God in the Presbyterian Form in the City of New York.*” This committee continues to strive to offer a worship environment and experience that remains consistent with the traditions of The First Presbyterian Church on Fifth Avenue and that is meaningful and accessible to all.

This year, the committee has continued to focus on factors that would enhance the worship experience. Music continues to be integral to our worship, offering meditation, vocal and instrumental praise, and an aesthetic whole from prelude to postlude. Our youth and our young adults have been encouraged to take part in our service as ushers and leaders of the service on many occasions. We have also continued to integrate our youth choir and even younger children into the service during and around the children’s prayer. During worship, members actively participate as leaders, lay readers, cross bearers, and ushers. We seek to establish an environment that is welcoming to all peoples, as our increasingly diverse congregation includes many generations and families.

The committee worked diligently throughout the first half of the year to prepare for the September 11, 2011, service that marked the tragedy experienced by our First Presbyterian community, the City, the nation and the world. The anniversary service was well-received by all who attended, and provided an opportunity for our community to reflect on our shared experiences related to this terrible event but also to look forward with the hope and confidence that it is at the heart of our Christian faith.

Through the dedicated leadership of our pastoral staff, the worship services at The First Presbyterian Church continue to be planned and shared in a variety of formats, offering many voices as worship leaders. The worship committee looks forward to the continued growth of these varied and beautiful services.

Our worship services continue to attract newcomers, as the preaching, sacraments, and music provide deeply meaningful experiences. In the future, this committee will continue to consider how First Presbyterian’s community might be further artistically engaged.

This committee would like to express appreciation for the following: the extraordinary leadership of our pastors and music staff at First Presbyterian Church; the communion set up team including Meg Harper and so many others; Elders and Deacons who help prepare, serve and clean up Communion; Joan Ryan’s continued leadership with the ushers; Denise Jackson for coordinating lay readers; Lisa Polite for her constant and ongoing support; and Tony Feliciano and his exceedingly capable staff. We acknowledge with gratitude the many hands that have worked to make our worship exceptional.

Boyd Johnson, Chair

Worship Committee: Dr. Jon Walton, Dr. William Entriken, Jeffrey Simpson, Lucia Haring, Meg Harper, David Richardson, Mark Robertson, Boyd Johnson