

MEMBERSHIP AND FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

Annual Report 2010

In 2010, 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 1,259. 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. Among these were five Inquirers' Brunches, the Annual Meeting Brunch, Soup & Song, Easter Breakfast, and the Welcome Home Picnic. These events were well attended and we are grateful to Jackie and her helpers for their dedication to the idea of encouraging fellowship by preparing and sharing meals together. We also held two spirited receptions for New Members at the homes of gracious hosts Joan and Reade Ryan and Kara and Langdon Van Norden.

The Deacons and Family Ministries Committee joined us in hosting some of the summer cookouts this year which were attended by an enthusiastic group, ranging from toddlers to our 60 Plus members. Meg Harper's Qi Gong classes have continued to grow and flourish and have now settled in as an ongoing church activity. The monthly Fellowship suppers following vespers continue to be a welcomed opportunity for worship and fellowship.

The First Forward Group, composed of our younger members, became an active sub-committee of their own. They pursued their mission to engage younger members with First Church through collaborative activities and programs. This year First Forward held regular brunch get-togethers, a summer fundraiser for Haiti, and a holiday gathering for charity in December. First Forward has a following of about 325 people who receive monthly updates and invitations and they have 54 regulars who have actively joined their Facebook group.

As the new chair of the Membership-Fellowship Committee, I would like to thank Charlotte Wallace for so beautifully paving the way. I would also 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 and sign-up tables; Lisa Polite and Mia Alvar for their incredible pro-activity and support; Sarah McCaslin, who met with us monthly and graced us with her wonderful spirit and spirituality; and the members of this lively committee who brought energy, enthusiasm, humor, and creativity to every meeting and event and who made it fun and inspiring to lead.

Committee Members: Buffy Barton-Davis, Malcolm Crawford, Jackie Fike, Ion Freeman, Suzanne Greene, Rebecca Johnson, Kyongsoo Noh, Nadya Robinson, Joan Ryan, Barbara Sherman, Leslie Smith, Ryan Tirre, Kara Van Norden.

First Forward Committee Members: Amy Elkins and Will Elkins (Co-Chairs), Gigi Freeman, Ion Freeman, Matt Johnson, Rebecca Johnson, Kyongsoo Noh, Kurt Regush, Leslie Smith, Ryan Tirre

Heather Mee, Chair

