

Congregational Life Committee

Tuesday, April 24, at 7:30 pm
At the home of Jane Ring

Present: Susan Griffith, Jane Ring, Casey FitzGerald, Katie Donley (vice chair) and Nancy Hall Berens (chair)

MINUTES:

We opened with joys and concerns about church members and friends and family members, then Nancy read Psalm 121 as an opening devotion.

1.

June 3 luncheon for the Dedication Sunday is being planned primarily by the Welcome Back Committee but will need help from Congregational Life on set-up, serving, and clean-up. Katie Donley will check with Nancy Bea, etc. on which tables and chairs are to be used for outdoor picnic luncheon. We may have as many as 500 people in attendance but not all will need to sit at tables.

Susan Griffith will check with the Alexandria City Department of Parks and Recreation to alert them to our big event that day (to make sure there are no soccer games scheduled for that same day). Nancy HB will get out notes from Cicely Woodrow from last 2 years on how we did set up, etc. We will ask for committee volunteers via email later in May.

2.

September 9 Welcome Back Sunday - open house to highlight our programs as well as our building to neighbors, friends, visitors and members. It's the day we invite everyone in to see the new building (mostly done by then, hopefully) and we'd like to have it as a kick off to our new program year as well so that we stay focused on the work and mission of the church, not just the beautiful new building. This is being planned by the Welcome Home Committee. Committee volunteers will be needed for set-up and clean-up as well as groups to display their activities.

3. Coffee hours after worship services - volunteers needed for serving coffee throughout year: 8:30 (Cathy Syles) and 11:00 (Chris Matthews and Lauren Smith-Papke)

Dates still needing coffee hour volunteers after the 11:00 service: May 20,27; June (3), 10, 17, 24; July 8, July 22, 29; All of August; Sep. 30; all of Oct.; Nov. 11, 18, 25; Dec 2, 9, 16, 23, 30. In May through August, volunteers can choose to do lemonade only (no coffee) outside.

Note: June 3 will be the dedication luncheon, so no separate coffee hour needed. Note to group liaisons: Hosting coffee hour is a great way to highlight your group to the whole congregation! Please contact Chris or Lauren if your group can volunteer: christinelmatthews@comcast.net or laurensp@hotmail.com. This is part of our ministry of welcome to visitors and members alike.

4. Kitchen and coffee supplies oversight - Cathy Syles will do it for now until we can identify another coordinator.

5. All-church events to plan for next fall: potluck? movie night? or....? Be thinking of ideas.... Casey had an idea for a movie. We will also ask Clara Beth about movie ideas, and Alice Daniels has offered to lend us some of her videos.

6. Possible event at Goodwin House for senior members - Nancy HB will be in contact with Sandy Calhoun about this.

7. Check in with any Congregational Life groups that are present: Jane Ring gave an update on Living Healthy, MOW and Women's retreat.

Casey FitzGerald gave an update on Flying Solo singles (good attendance at monthly dinners and last Sunday's roundtable event, currently planning retreat for September) and Young Adults (growing numbers - 24 at recent dinner). Katie Donley also spoke about Young Adults. Nancy Hall Berens spoke about Families with Children.

8. "Celebration of Mothers" event - Saturday, May 12 at 6 pm. Family pot luck dinner planned by Karen Blomberg and the deacons to honor mothers and grandmothers, both those with us now and those who have gone before us.

9.

Volunteer Recognition and Job Fair - Sunday, September 16, in lieu of traditional Time & Talent campaign - Art Sauer. Any group looking for volunteers should be thinking about setting up a display at the "Job Fair." It will be held in Fellowship Hall, and it is intended that groups have displays similar to what is done at the Alternative Christmas Bazaar. This will be the main chance to highlight the work and need for volunteers for the coming year. Now is the time to start thinking about how to showcase your particular activity and to start collecting pictures and other materials that

might be used in a display. More details on job fair coming in August. Nancy HB will contact Art about how this fits into the Sept. 9 Welcome Back Sunday (repetition?).

10.

A group will be meeting at the church on Thursday (April 26) to continue unpacking, putting things on shelves, and designating things for the yard sale. If you are available in late morning/early afternoon they would greatly appreciate the help. Look for Faye Woodrow. Call her if you have questions 703-354-4871.

11. Anything else needing attention:

We talked about the need for more outreach to mothers with babies and very small children. Some groundwork has been laid, now we will try to get something going.

Jane Ring said that the Craft Room is getting set up while Madeline recovers from her knee surgery. We are all thankful that Madeline is doing better!

12. Next meeting: Tuesday, May 15, at 7:30 pm, hopefully at church...or...?