

Congregational Life Committee

Tuesday, May 15, at 7:30 pm

Present:

Nancy Hall Berens, chair, Art Sauer, Casey FitzGerald, Nancy Harper, Anne Gross, Linc Cummings, John Wilson

Minutes:

1. Opening prayer by Art Sauer. Joys and concerns shared.
2. June 3 luncheon for the Dedication Sunday discussed - many volunteers needed:

set-up and clean-up: recruiting by Katie Donley, Casey FitzGerald, Nancy Harper

servicing and traffic control: recruiting by Nancy Hall Berens, Nancy Harper

items to purchase:

paper products for 500 (plates, napkins, cutlery, cold cups), table coverings and clamps, ice, beverages.

items to borrow: folding chairs, tents (Art will look into purchasing at Big Lots).

other items: welcome signs, directional signs, nametags (do a "Nametag" Sunday in the service?)

Note: All food purchasing, prep and grilling will be done by a kosher caterer. Paper products, etc. must be kept in original packaging until the picnic.

A "moshgiach" will oversee the set up, cooking and serving of the food to be sure that it is kept kosher. Caterer will bring tubs to put ice in to cool beverages.

Last year we had 3 serving tables with 6 serving lines which flowed very well. We had about 300 people last year, 400 in 2005. This year we estimate between 400-500 people. Larry has invited the Agudas Achim congregation. MOW have generously volunteered at least 6 people for early set up and another 6 for clean up. Flying Solo and Young Adults will also provide volunteers. Would like to try to get Boy Scouts and youth to help if possible. Need to approach PW about helpers for serving. Other CL committee members will also help. Susan Griffith has found out that there are no games scheduled for the George Mason field that day.

Tentative schedule:

Saturday June 2 - table/chair collecting at 9 am.

Sunday morning set up at 8 am.

Worship at 10 am.

Dedication in sanctuary at 11:15.

Lunch at 12 noon.

Clean up about 1:30??

3. Coffee hours after worship services - volunteers needed: 8:30 (Cathy Smyles) and 11:00 (Chris Matthews and Lauren Smith-Papke)
4. Kitchen and coffee supplies oversight - Cathy Smyles - coordinate with Cathy if you have an event and need supplies.
5. All-church fall event to plan: potluck? movie night? or some sort of entertainment? We talked about having another benefit - maybe for Local Missions since we did National/International last fall at Fuddrucker's. Another suggestion was made about the orphanage in Kenya. Good idea either for this year or next.
6. "Celebration of Mothers" dinner - Saturday, May 12. Note from Karen Blomberg: "The celebration of mothers event was a grand success. Men, women, children, ages 2-90. It was a small group of 50. We met in Haverkamp and had a wonderful time of recollection, which included the lighting of candles, sharing of stories, pictures, and mementos, laughter, tears, and wonderful food. There will be a celebration of mothers next year, the day before Mothers Day."
7. Checked in with Congregational Life groups that were present. Flying Solo Singles are looking forward to their retreat in September. A note from Madeline Ramsey who could not be there: The Crafts group storage box will return in late May. They anticipate that they will be able to start meeting again in mid-June.

8. Art Sauer: **Volunteer Recognition and Job Fair - Sunday, September 16**, in lieu of traditional Time & Talent campaign.

Any group looking for volunteers should be thinking about setting up a display at the "Job Fair." It will be held in Fellowship Hall. 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.

(Groups can use same display for September 9 Open House if it's appropriate.) Displays need to look good and have sign up sheets, brochures and/or posters for people to see. Sept. 16 is only for committees and groups who need to recruit volunteers for various tasks. For us that means:

- Senior Adults Ministries: for bus drivers and visitation volunteers

- Workday: to make heart pillows and stuffed animals for the hospital

- Coffee Hours: for volunteers to serve

- Cong. Life Committee: at-large members who pitch in for various events.

- All other groups, those that are more "fellowship" type groups, should be prepared to have similar displays for the **September 9 Open House** where we will showcase the entire life of the church to visitors, neighbors, members, etc. We will also need volunteers to help pull off both Sept. 9 and 16 events!

9. Closing prayer by Art.

10. When we adjourned, some of us counted tables and folding chairs for the picnic in HR, WR, FH, etc. The church has a total of 40 long tables, 15 round tables and 280 folding chairs (plus 50 in the choir room which will be needed for choir on Sunday).

We will supplement the church chair supply with borrowed chairs from Alexandria Country Day School, thanks to Amey Upton. Katie is recruiting people and trucks for transportation.