

Community Life Report

Written By Mimi Copp Johnson

Please list the members currently serving on your ministry or leadership team.

- ❖ Jackie Williams, Peter Buxton, John Owens

Please list what the goals of your group or ministry were for 2017.

- ❖ Create a new team.
- ❖ Organize congregational meals and times to get together to build community.
- ❖ Support Old First community members during different milestones and difficulties in their lives.

Were you able to achieve your goals for 2017? Please be as specific as possible of your successes and failures.

- ❖ Yes, we achieved our goals. Our team formed and we established the rhythm of meeting once a month. We coordinated with the hospitality teams on special Sunday events, on needs of the teams, and on inviting newcomers to join teams. We organized potlucks for the annual meeting and Easter. We brought people together in one another's homes for Lenten dinners with the theme "welcome the stranger" and to reflect on the realities of people who are immigrants. We held Summer Sunday brunches at Old City restaurants and Fall Sunday Suppers at Mimi and Mike's house. We planned a potluck and time of celebration for Old First's 270th anniversary and marked its 50th anniversary of returning to 4th and Race Streets. We arranged visits to members who can no longer attend worship, prepared refreshments for funerals, organized meals to families who had babies born and reached out to people as they coped with different things, i.e. death in the family, hospitalization. The year concluded with the SLG organizing an Advent day retreat.

Where is your group or ministry area stuck? What is your group or ministry area pondering?

- ❖ We are pondering how to implement parts of our responsibilities, which are:
 1. Oversee the congregation's ministry of service and caring for its members including, but not limited to: hospitality, visitation, retreats, other community programs and celebrations, and honoring of member accomplishments;
 2. Provide training for new members in the meaning and significance of the church and of church membership.
 3. Nurture and support ministry teams providing opportunities for relationship building among members and associates of the church in ways consistent with the Vision and Mission of the congregation.
- ❖ 2017 was focused on getting the team up and running and accomplishing things that fell under
 - a) We continue to talk about how to do #2 and #3.

What do you hope to accomplish in the coming 2018 year

- ❖ We hope to put more attention on #2 and #3 of our responsibilities. We will continue to organize potlucks and times for people to get together. We will explore the possibility of planning an all church retreat for some time in 2018.

What are the ways that the church can support your team?

- ❖ We would love to have more people join our team and/or to help us with specific aspects, i.e., visit people, take meals, plan a specific event. To accomplish all three areas of responsibilities given to the team, we will need more help on the team.