

Community Life SLG 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 2018.

- ❖ Coordinate hospitality teams, working with team captains to understand the role of the teams and see that all teams have sufficient number of members.
- ❖ 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 2018? Please be as specific as possible of your successes and failures.

- ❖ Yes, we achieved our goals. We met with hospitality team captains, coordinated with the 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. Forty-five people came together in one another's homes, in coffee shops, and at Old First for Lenten gatherings with the theme "what does it mean to be church?" People gathered for a Summer Sunday brunch at an Old City restaurant. Thirty-five people ate, played games, and got to know each other more at a church picnic after worship in August.
- ❖ In the fall, the SLG planned a special fellowship hour for Old First's 271st anniversary. In November, 24 people came together after worship to share lunch, visit with one another, and hear Rev. Cean James, UCC Associate Conference Minister of PA Southeast Conference, talk about the life of a church, as part of a process called the Natural Church Development process. Twenty-seven leaders filled out surveys reflecting on what comes naturally for our community and what doesn't.
- ❖ We had an Old First banner designed to be used by all SLGs and other groups when needing signage or wanting to promote the church. 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.

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

- ❖ One area of responsibility that the team continues to figure out with Pastor Michael is how best to provide training for new members in the meaning and significance of the church and of church membership.

What do you hope to accomplish in the coming 2019 year?

- ❖ A new team will be built in 2019. Two (John Owens and Mimi Copp Johnson) of the four members of the team are transitioning off the team and a new leader will join the team. The new team will discern together what they hope to specifically accomplish in 2019, as they carry out the responsibilities of the Community Life SLG.

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

- ❖ People excited about helping build the community life of Old First could join the team. Willing hands are always need to help visit people, take meals, set-up and clean-up congregational meals, or plan a specific event. Think of ways you would appreciate building community at Old First and share your ideas with the team. Pray for the team members and the community building efforts at Old First.