

CHURCH LIFE MINISTRY GROUP 2008 REPORT

Mission: To build and nurture a church family

The 2008 Church Life Ministry Group was made up of active members Phyllis Beeson, Phyllis Blunt, Ruth Butler, Jerry Ann Dye, Karen Koelling, Nancy Martin, Beth McLeod, Joanie Miller, and Jane Shackelford, under the pastoral guidance of Kerry Purselle.

We began January 2008 with the 50th anniversary celebration of FUMC, coordinated by Sandy Blackman. In addition, we coordinated the reception for the Koinonia program presented by Dr. Bruce Rigdon on the 23rd.

February brought the annual Daddy-Daughter Valentine Dance, organized by Shannon Ayers.

The first Memory Lane Lunch Bunch, for members of our congregation aged 75+, was a St. Patrick's Day Dinner on March 16th. Dick Purselle and his crew prepared the annual Easter morning breakfast following the Sunrise Service.

During May we hosted Lemonade on the Lawn to honor our new Confirmands.

In conjunction with Staff Parish, we hosted a farewell reception for Clinton and Barbara Flowers upon their retirement on July 13th. Another reception was held to celebrate the Installation of Rev. John Boggs as Asheville District Superintendent on August 3rd.

The Abiding Light Sunday School class held a covered dish supper on August 20, with music provided by Mark Yaxley, to welcome Tim Shepard, our new Director of Music.

We hosted the Church picnic at the Pink Beds on September 7th, beginning with Sliding Rock adventures with Pastor Mike, picnic potluck, concluding with Vespers.

Continuing programs throughout the year included:

- Sunday morning coffee fellowship – Diane and Mike Harle, assisted by Karen and Ron Koelling. Held in the Communications Center.
- Gospel Gourmets – Coordinated by Phyllis Blunt; groups of 8 meeting in one another's home for food and fellowship. Annual picnic held May 16th at Holmes State Forest. Currently 64 persons participate monthly, with 24 substitutes.
- Wednesday Evening Suppers – Ruth Butler, Coordinator. Dinners resumed in October with some changes: Meals are now catered by TRH and served at 5:30 p.m., with a minimal price increase.

Our Autumn Memory Lane Lunch Bunch dinner is planned for November 2nd. We especially want to include those who have lost loved ones in the past year, in observance of All Saints Day.

We look forward to assisting the Stewardship Committee with a celebratory Thanksgiving Covered Dish Luncheon Sunday, November 16th. The Pratt family will again prepare a Thanksgiving morning breakfast as a gift to the congregation.

Wrapping up 2008 will be our annual Christmas caroling to our shut-ins, followed by a chili supper on Wednesday, December 17th.

We anticipate continuing to serve our church family in 2009 through intergenerational fellowship.

Phyllis Blunt, Chair