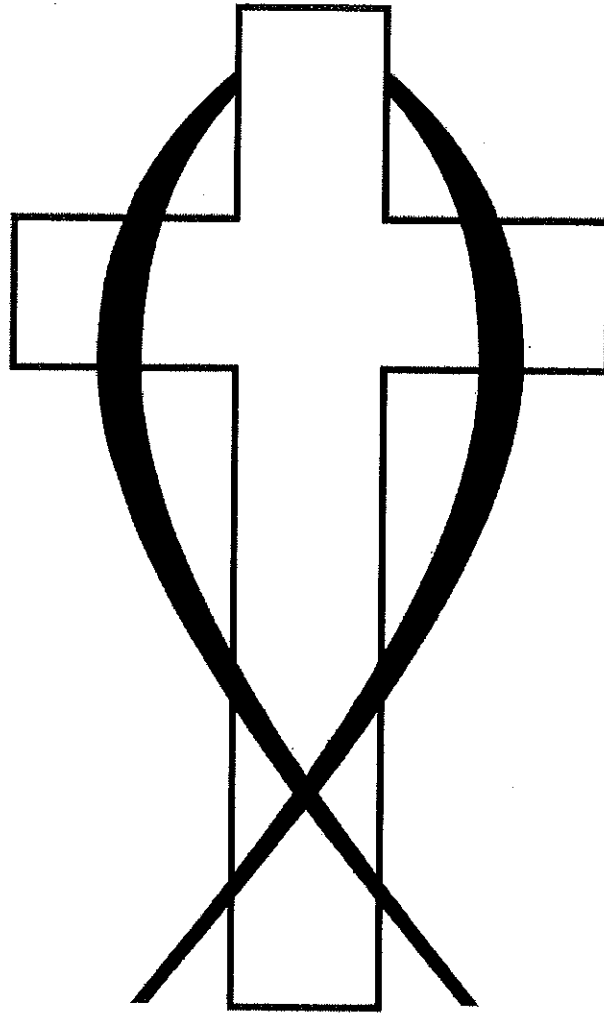


FLOSSMOOR COMMUNITY CHURCH



MID-YEAR CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
JANUARY 29, 2012

MID-YEAR REPORTS

The Board of Christian Education Mid-Year Report

Kris McManus, Chair

2011- 2012

There continue to be several opportunities to deepen one's faith at Flossmoor Community Church. George Francis and the faithful members of the **Adult Education** Committee continue to coordinate quality programs for our congregation and community. Several Adult Education opportunities were offered in the fall, and upcoming sessions for adults include:

- Drop-in Sunday Sessions - Sundays starting in January we'll review and discuss a short video topic each week.
- World Religions – We'll spend three Sundays in March getting to know more about different religions around the world.
- Galatians - Sunday evenings starting in April we will study and discuss Paul's letter to "the churches of Galatia."
- Parenting Seminars - Sunday evenings starting in late April we'll offer sessions devoted to the challenges modern families face.

Our youth continue to grow closer to Christ under the guidance of our Youth Director, Betsy Hanzelin, and her dedicated staffers. So far this program year, the youth at FCC have:

- Held three retreats at Tower Hill: Leadership Training retreat, Disciples Community Retreat, Sophs Life Keys Retreat
- Leadership teams hosted Parent/Youth Ice Cream Social in September
- Disciples & Exodus cooked and served PADS guests dinner in October and December
- All Youth hosted Breakfast Bonanza in November, and raised \$900 for Christmas Angels. Youth shopped, wrapped and delivered gifts to our nine-member Christmas Angel Family.
- Ten adults involved in Youth Ministries travelled to Atlanta for the National Youth Workers Convention, due to the extreme generosity of a donor! The team was encouraged, trained and inspired and looks forward to bringing some new ideas to our youth in the spring.

Our children continue to grow in their relationship with Christ as well. Director of Children's Ministries, Belinda Lowry, is joined by Vanessa Busuttill, who was hired as a part-time administrative assistant for Children's Ministries last fall. In addition to their Sunday school experiences, led by several wonderful volunteers, the children of FCC have been busy doing the following:

- The children led worship at both services on December 18.
- The 6th graders served a PADS dinner in November and January.
- The 3rd grade Bible class is scheduled to begin in February.

The **Weekday Preschool** is also having a spectacular year, thanks to Director Marji O'Leary and her assistant, Dallas Collins, the very special teachers, and the enthusiastic volunteer efforts of many. There is outstanding parent participation this year, and the various fundraising efforts have been so great that we were able to purchase six new digital cameras and several new prop boxes for our preschool classrooms. God is good!

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Board of Congregational Life Mid-Year Report
Rose Mayer, Chair
2011-2012

Highlights of the First Half of 2011-12

- A. Whole Church Activities: Taste of FCC (all ages, all committees)
- B. Photo Scavenger Hunt: Offsite fun activity and dinner (adults)
- C. Shared responsibilities with other committee for two major events in December:
 1. Evening Advent Service fellowship gathering (all ages)
 2. Meet and Greet reception for Carla Jo Howlett on her candidate's weekend (all ages)

Expectations for the Second Half of 2011-12

- A. Will provide group donation to PADS
- B. Will host the All Church Potluck on the last 2-service Sunday in May

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The Diaconate Board Mid-year Report
Mike Durkin, Chair
2011-2012

The mission of the Diaconate Board is to provide service to Flossmoor Community Church members to help meet needs for meals, transportation, memorials and visitation. This need is ongoing throughout the year. In this first half of this church year we have:

- Provided meals long term for two families in crisis.
- Provided meals for those returning from the hospital.
- Provided receptions after Memorials for church members.
- Delivered flowers to homebound members.
- Sent encouraging cards to those who are in need.
- Provided transportation to church services and to medical appointments.

It is the goal of the Diaconate to continue to meet these service needs in a timely manner and to widen our circle of care.

Growth & Development Task Force Mid-Year Report
Preston Pugh, Chair
2011-2012

1. Accomplished: Sought feedback on the direction Growth & Development should take:
 - a. I spoke with Pastor Lyon in July 2011
 - b. I spoke with Bob Norby in August 2011
 - c. I spoke with numerous members of the Congregation, both in passing and also at the Taste of FCC
 - d. I spoke with William Payne, previous Chair of Growth & Development, about progress made in 2010-2011
 - e. As a result of these discussions, Growth & Development convened a Town Hall meeting last fall

2. Accomplished: Town Hall meeting where numerous ideas were shared. Among them:
 - a. Young families may want alternative worship days/times other than Sunday morning which conflicts with sports activities and/or family time.
 - b. In the past we have called on people in their homes.
 - c. We should reach out to new residents in the area.
 - d. Hold "mini church" activities with fellowship (scrapbooking).
 - e. Reinstate the Thanksgiving play.
 - f. Hand out fliers about our church.
 - g. How do we get parents of youth to stay and participate rather than dropping off their teens?
 - h. The DEVELOP Forum was extremely successful because it offered a safe group with a trained facilitator.
 - i. What are we doing to encourage couples who use our church for their marriage ceremony to become engaged in our faith community?
 - j. We should do more to reach out to the families involved in our Preschool.
 - k. Young families need grounding and we should do more to offer that opportunity.
 - l. We need to share our stories of being an incredible community.
 - m. What are we doing to get the word out?

3. Accomplished: Organized a Growth & Development Task Force
 - a. Discussion in advance with Nominating Committee
 - b. First meeting was on December 21st, with another one to take place in latter half of January 2012
 - c. Monthly meetings to take place thereafter, and perhaps more frequently if needed

4. Accomplished/in progress: Devised specific concrete goals to be accomplished before Summer 2012.
- a. The first meeting of the task force resulted in a robust discussion
 - b. Needs of diverse members of FCC, as well as needs of younger members of the community who are not members, were discussed
 - c. Ideas for fostering FCC's growth became a focal point
 1. Renewal of vows and reception
 2. Two-step dinners
 3. Scrapbooking
 4. Increased use of the Community House, including by the local fine arts group
 5. Continuation of DEVELOP classes
 6. Find ways to reach new residents with information about FCC
 - d. These ideas reflect not only the opinions of the task force, but also those gathered in the Town Hall meeting
 - e. Examples that have been suggested to me in discussion with the congregation thus far include incorporating more diverse music from other faith traditions, increasing our interaction with our sister churches and other churches in the surrounding area, starting a Saturday evening service, and finding ways to make the Community House more available to the faith community at large.
5. Path going forward: Meet the goals that were set
- a. Roll out the specific goals we discussed over the next several months, and possibly add to them
 - b. Find a way to reach new Flossmoor residents with news about FCC
 - c. Send news of progress to Congregation
 - d. Involve Associate Pastor Carlo Jo Howlett

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Board of Lay Ministries Mid-Year Report
Janet Bolton, Chair
2011-12 Update

So far, this year has been one of re-focusing on three incredibly exciting areas for our Church!

Board of Lay Ministries created exciting goals for three of our Focus Teams:

1. Invite and Welcome:
2. Connect and Involve
3. Small Groups

Some of the goals for the **Invite and Welcome Team** surround making FCC even more welcoming and becoming very intentional about our getting our message out.

1. The wonderful Heavenly Hosts that serve at our 2 desks each Sunday will be learning some new ideas at a Heavenly Host Boot Camp this Spring!
2. The congregation will hear more and more announcements from Lay Ministries about the fabulous and newly updated Visitor Brochures, among other ways for our members to spread the word of FCC!
3. Ideas for better directional signs are being discussed

The **Connect and Involve Team** work is going on fast and furious with the *New Member Process*s already in full swing. The process will continue to be honed and improved as we go through the year. Again, announcements will be made from the pulpit and in the Narthex.

Finally, a **Small Groups Task Force** is being initiated by Lay Ministries to determine what small groups model might best fit our Congregation. The goal is to connect and engage each member of FCC in a group that interests them and fits their life schedule! All very exciting!

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Nominating Committee Mid-Year Report

Anna Carvalho, Chair
2011-2012

The Nominating Committee's charge is to match your gifts – the tasks you enjoy and feel most passionate about – with the needs of the church. Every year we meet in February to identify 70 or so church members for board and committee positions for the following program year. In addition to our normal activity, including filling mid-term spots as needed, thus far this year the Committee has:

- Worked with Elder Preston Pugh to fulfill the Focus Elder's charge this year of establishing the Growth and Development Committee to find and implement ways to bring the community into FCC through both worship and programming. The goals for this ad hoc committee include:
 - Studying effective church growth strategies;
 - Studying church growth trends;
 - Strategizing engagement opportunities/topics and working with FCC members to be a welcoming presence.
- At the request of the Governing Board, the Committee completed staffing of the ad hoc Communications and Technology Committee. This committee is charged with:
 - Reviewing our website and determining how to make it more visitor friendly, as well as more useful as a communication tool for staff, boards/committees, and members;

- Facilitating the more regular use of visual and sound media in the sanctuary; and
- Determining the best means of church-wide communication concerning both regularly planned programming and special events.
- **Lastly, the Committee worked to revise and update Interest Surveys which are available today. These will be used to assist in discerning the gifts and interests of the congregation. Please fill one out before you leave, and drop it in the survey collection box on your way out!**

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Board of Outreach Ministries Mid-Year Report
Frank Acuff, Chair
2011-2012

The Board of Outreach Ministries continues to ask ourselves how we would continue our work to serve others, seek justice, and improve the conditions of those less fortunate.

The Board's guiding principles allowed us to embrace our congregation's core values so that we could build relationships, share work and minister to one another. Mission work, whether local or global, is about individual and group contribution that is beneficial to the giver and the receiver.

The board is addressing three strategic issues:

- 1) How to find more avenues for members of our FCC family to use their talents for those less fortunate.
- 2) How justice might express itself from local, national, or international perspectives, in relation to the guideline principles of the Board of Outreach Ministries and Flossmoor Community Church as a whole.
- 3) How to achieve more impact with perhaps fewer organizations. This may mean phasing out some organizations over time.

The World Communion Sunday offering provided funds to Doctors without Borders, an international organization, and Respond Now, a local organization.

Organizations which the Board facilitated providing talent and/or treasure include Good Shepherd Center, South Suburban Family Shelter, South Suburban PADS, Habitat for Humanity, NeighborScapes, Women in Progress, Reclaim a Youth, Aunt Martha's Youth Services, Jones Community Center, Bethel Community Center, Community Cloud Forest Conservation, Mt. Nebo, Center for Multicultural Communities, Faye's Light, Jennifer Fallick Cancer Support Center, Doctors without Borders, and Respond Now.

We continue to seek opportunities that resonated with the greater FCC congregation in the areas of education/training, health/wellness, housing/homeless, hunger, poverty and justice in other related areas.

We are very grateful for the considerable contributions provided the Outreach Board by Rev. Kim Wood. We now welcome and look forward to the counsel, talents, and perspectives of Rev. Carla Jo Howlett.

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Personnel Committee Report Mid-Year Report
John Schneider, Chair
2011-2012

Highlights of the First Half of 2011-12

- A. Employed Vanessa Busutil to provide part-time assistance to Belinda Lowry, Director of Children’s Ministries
- B. Completed details of the call and employment agreement with the Rev. Carla Jo Howlett, whom we have welcomed as our Settled Associate Pastor
- C. Worked on a process for the Personnel Committee to develop liaison relationships with staff members in order to offer them ongoing encouragement and support in carrying out the service they provide FCC

Expectations for the Second Half of 2011-12

- A. Fully implement the liaison process
- B. Evaluate the performance review process, and revise as needed

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Properties Committee Mid-Year Report
Geoff Guzynski, Chair
2011-2012

Highlights of the First Half of 2011-12

- A. CPR training
- B. Roofing survey & repairs to flat roofs, including replacement of a severely wet section over Bell Chapel
- C. Replacement of the old univent in the Family Room
- D. Various repairs to our aging facility

Expectations for the Second Half of 2011-12

With the expected funds from the Foundation, we hope to complete some of the following:

- A. Replacement of the Community House front doors
- B. Redo some failing tile areas, mainly on the second floor
- C. Restoration of stained glass and replacement of protective glazing
- D. Continue with flat roof tear-off and replacements
- E. Many other small maintenance projects

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Stewardship Committee Mid-Year Report

Brian Toolan, Chair

2011-2012

Highlights of the First Half of 2011-12

(all related to the reorganization of the Annual Campaign)

A. New Timetable

The Annual Campaign will move from a March – May to a January - March cycle to provide the Finance Committee with a complete and accurate Pledge total sooner and more time to prepare the Annual FCC Budget.

B. Early Pledging

Church members will receive a packet containing a pledge card in the mail right after the Campaign Kick-off. This year, all members will be encouraged to return their completed pledge card as soon as possible instead of waiting until the conclusion of the Annual Campaign.

C. Congregational Pledge Goal

The Annual Campaign will have a goal for the total dollar amount in pledges from the congregation. During this year's campaign, we will hear from our Boards and Committees how our joyful giving serves the mission and ministries of our church and achieves transformational change in the lives of others. Together and with God's help we will achieve all that God intends for Flossmoor Community Church.

Expectations for the Second Half of 2011-12

A. Increase Percentage Giving

The Stewardship committee will continue to encourage every member to become a percentage giver and for every member who already is a percentage giver to step up their pledge this year.

B. Achieve Success amidst Change

The reorganization of the Annual Campaign offers an opportunity to grow the giving spirit of our congregation, but these changes will challenge each of us to find within ourselves a way to become a better steward of Flossmoor Community Church.

Worship and Arts Committee Mid-Year Report
Scott Kappmeyer, Vice Chair
2011-2012

Highlights of the First Half of 2011-12

- Had a special focus for worship each month from September through December:
 - September: Education
 - October: Outreach
 - November: Discipleship
 - December: Worship
- Hosted two interfaith community worship services:
 - Commemoration of the 10th Anniversary of September 11, 2001
 - Thanksgiving Eve
- “Time with Children” became a regularly part of 9:00AM Worship
- Coordinated with Lay Ministries to start to welcoming new members every first Sunday of each month
- Coordinated with Children’s Ministries to introduced the “Make a Joyful Noise” offering during Advent, with the children collecting coins in steel buckets (hence the joyful noise) to raise funds for Heifer International
- Introduced some new ways to celebrate Advent and Christmas Eve

Expectations for the Second Half of 2011-12

- Coordinate with the Board of Christian Education to evaluate the Sunday morning worship and education schedules
- Observe Ash Wednesday with a cantata followed by a service of receiving ashes and communion