

Annual report of the Fellowship and Hospitality Committee at Bethesda Friends Meeting

The Fellowship and Hospitality committee holds the Meeting's responsibility for organizing and supporting hospitality at a variety of events, including the coffee hour after the rise of Meeting on Sundays, coordination for the monthly potlucks, and special occasions such as Memorial meetings and weddings under the care of BFM. In general, this year has gone well in fulfilling these obligations. The Committee's members have been able to strengthen our procedures in a number of areas that have facilitated our work.

At our January organizing meeting, with a majority of Friends new to the committee, we decided that e-mail was our preferred communication tool. Learning from experiences in 2009, we decided to have one face-to-face meeting later in the Spring and then another in the Fall to review how we were responding to our duties. We also noted our new hosting month was May, having agreed to Stewardship and Finance's request to switch for November. We concluded our January meeting by dividing up the chores of monthly liaison to other committees, supply checker, supply purchaser, and co-clerks.

This year we had only one Memorial service reception to plan for since the services for Ed Holmes and Melva Hiatt were held at other locations. The reception for Nancy and Doug Chevalier's memorial service was held in late March, and we were able to provide a comfortable edible complement to those attending the service. A special aspect of our preparation was when Nancy's daughters, Kim and Tracy, offered to help Christine and Michael Morfit make the small sandwiches for eating at the reception. Their mutual creations were tasty and were unique contributions to the memorial.

In April, we held our Spring review committee meeting. Supply tracking and purchasing were proceeding as hoped. We looked at a draft manual that Christine Morfit had written for F&H to use in preparing for any memorial meeting reception and decided to circulate it among us for additions or modifications. Our new responsibilities during May and at Spring Fling were clarified. We were relieved that our potluck day was merged into Spring Fling. We reviewed housekeeping expectations during the summer months.

Starting the summer, we were asked by the School to clear out the basement kitchenette storage areas for their planned remodeling, so that some of our coffee hour supplies were put in the Meeting's office temporarily. Unused items were freely taken away by those attending one Sunday after the worship. Our autumn committee meeting was a good review and we were able to refocus for the remainder of the year, including considering a form for others to report diminishing supplies that we'd then use in making purchases. During this fall also we have participated in planning a wedding reception for Sharon Cantor and Michael Ceurvorst on

December 17th. Their family's gift to BFM includes a number of white linen tablecloths that can be used for future receptions so that rentals won't be needed anymore.

Reflecting on the year, we feel satisfied with our participation hosting coffee hours in May and September as well as staffing during Spring Fling and the September potluck. Many thanks to Pat Thompson who leaves the committee this month after many generous years. Many thanks to Mike Norris and Christine Morfit whose good will and energy helped us out on numerous occasions during the year even though they weren't officially on our roster. And finally, and as in previous years, we are very thankful to Claudia Villabord for her cheerful efficient presence working as our Sidwell School kitchen staffer at potlucks and receptions.

Looking into 2012, our committee will have hospitality responsibilities at February's FGC Executive committee meeting and then again in October at the BYM Interim Meeting. We are grateful to Nominating committee for helping us identify a pool of people within the Meeting who can help us out on an ad hoc basis.