

Hospitality Committee Annual Report 2019

Chapel Hill Friends Meeting

The Hospitality Committee strives to make visitors feel welcomed and to foster community within the meeting. Specifically, the Committee serves to:

- greet attenders and welcome visitors to meeting
- manage monthly potluck
- organize a Thanksgiving event
- assist CYRE with the mid-December Christmas party
- help finding volunteers to provide meals for Friends in temporary need

Greet attenders and welcome visitors to meeting: At 11 o'clock worship attenders are greeted and visitors are welcomed with an introductory brochure and invited to sign the guest book to receive (thanks, particularly, to the efforts of Annalee Harkins) an invitation to learn more about our meeting and/or to be added to the listserv. We continue to host fellowship after worship where we can further welcome visitors and where all attenders can connect with each other. And we strive to provide quality refreshments to make fellowship more convivial.

This year the Committee authored a document of guidance for greeters and invited other members of the meeting to act as greeter (with the Committee providing refreshments). The document has proved particularly useful in clarifying when to ring the bell for worship.

We also instituted, and are working out the kinks of, a new name tag system (special thanks to Lori Khamala). In place of an impenetrable tangle of strings we are using detachable badges that can clip directly to clothing or to a separate neck lanyard. The schoolhouse is proving to be unpropitious for instituting a new system and we are looking to make further improvements once back in the Meeting House.

Manage monthly potluck: The Committee purchases supplies, sets up and cleans up (with much appreciated help from non-committee members), and generally oversees potluck. A major innovation this year is the use of compostable plates. With them we can:

- allow Hospitality members to focus on welcoming visitors rather than washing dishes (Nancy Fisher can even sit down to eat)
- compost food waste and paper napkins -- both of which were discarded before
- allay some concerns about the sanitariness of our previous method of hand-washing
- possibly (according to one study) consume less energy than by heating water for hand-washing

Organize a Thanksgiving event: For two years running, the Committee has asked for volunteers to share their Thanksgiving dinner with members without a local family to be with. This year we had no volunteer hosts and two would-be guests who fortunately found other venues for Thanksgiving. The year before we had neither hosts nor guests. Next Thanksgiving we will need to rethink our plans.

Assist CYRE with the mid-December Christmas party: Committee members help with set-up and clean-up, and the Committee provides paper plates, napkins, egg nog, hot cider, and table decorations for the Christmas potluck (special thanks to the departing clerk, Joanna Selim, for providing the new clerk a detailed list of what to buy). The party was definitely a lot of fun.

Help finding volunteers to provide meals for Friends in temporary need: In January of 2018 the Hospitality Committee (through the efforts of Annalee) established a group on the Lotsa Helping Hands website for members who want to be contacted when a member of the meeting informs Care and Counsel that the member needs a meal because of some incapacity. Although the Lotsa Helping Hands group now exists, it has not yet been tested in use. There is some concern that there are not enough people in the group to ensure that someone is able to provide a meal when needed and we are considering ways to expand our list of potential volunteers.

Respectfully submitted: Buzz Borchardt (clerk), Annette Broadwell, Ronald Carnes, Nancy Fisher, Annalee Harkins, Gwyn Hein, Lori Khamala, Hart Pillow, Joanna Selim