

NEWCOMERS COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT  
20019

“WE WELCOME RADICALLY”

The Newcomers Committee consists of eight parish volunteers who represent both the 8:00am service and 10:00am service. In addition, ushers, greeters and other self appointed volunteers identify and greet visitors and newcomers who attend services. The Newcomers Committee meets for planning and review of activities twice per year. The Committee hosts two luncheons each year. Four newcomers attend the spring luncheon and fall eleven newcomers attended the fall luncheon.. Newcomers, parish leaders, and clergy also were invited to attend.

All Newcomers are encouraged to complete the pew card and return it to an usher, hand it to clergy, or place it in the offertory plate. When the pew card is received, it is submitted to the parish office. Kathy Barnes adds it to the Newcomers spreadsheet and it is forwarded to the Newcomer Committee chairperson. If appropriate, the Newcomer chairperson writes and mails a note of greeting.

The Newcomer spreadsheet was recently edited by the clergy and the Chair to eliminate names of visitors who are not currently attending St. Lukes after their initial visit. Also newcomers who attended a luncheon are no longer defined as newcomers Kathy has been asked to forward the names of Newcomers who indicate an interest in a ministry to the appropriate ministry chairperson. The spreadsheet is more relevant after these changes.

New this year, photos of Newcomers are photographed by Bill Guktnecht. Photos with names are posted on the Newcomer bulletin board in the Sprague Room. Parishioners are able to view the photos with names and are able to personally greet the newcomers. We are grateful to Bill for his time and expertise.

We continue to provide welcome bags on the table in the Sprague Room. Also, on that table, we provide other community and church information for Newcomers and guests to pick up. These materials are brought to us by parishioners.

The current budget for Newcomers Committee is sufficient for all activities due to committee member donations for luncheons and Evangelism Committee sharing in expenses for mugs and pens. We are grateful for this generosity

The Newcomer Committee continues to seek ways to “connect” Newcomers to ministries, and to track continued attendance. We plan to ask selected newcomers to share their opinions about their continued attendance at St. Lukes and publish this information in the St. Luke’s newsletter. We hope this will help us improve our efforts to retain Newcomers.

In order to expand our efforts to invite newcomers to visit St. Luke’s, we will continue to participate in the Arts Committee events, and other community wide occasions such as Pumpkin Patch sales during the fall. We will make St. Luke’s information materials available at those events.

We continue to gratefully serve St. Luke’s as we greet Newcomers and guests, and are thankful for the support of vestry and clergy.

Respectfully submitted

Carol Kokesh, Chair of Newcomers Committee