

WORSHIP ASSOCIATES/ WORSHIP AND SERVICES

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This year we made the decision to absorb the Worship and Service Committee into the Worship Associates Group. The responsibilities of the Worship/Service group fit well into the realm covered by the Worship Associates Group.

Worship Associates met on the first Tuesday evening of each month during the Church year. Our discussions focus on the elements involved in Sunday morning services. A great many discussions revolve around spiritual concerns and what we feel may be the needs of our congregation as a whole. We look at the order of all elements in our Sunday services and determine their effectiveness in the overall outcome of each service.

Why does one come to service? Does what we offer meet all of the needs of our congregation? How well does the service flow? Does the placement of each element in the service lend itself to the desired outcome: a positive spiritual experience for all present?

As Worship Associates, we are not only evaluating Sunday service quality; we participate by taking active roles in the service as needed by our minister Steve Edington. One of the ways we have done this by taking turns at offering Words for Reflection. Our participation fits in with the belief that having members of the congregation in visible roles during the service helps to create a unified and comfortable ambience to each service. It is hopeful more people may have the desire to become involved in some manner, perhaps as a chalice lighter. It isn't easy to get up in front of a group; perhaps more will feel comfortable enough to offer a joy or concern once they see other members sharing.

When Steve needs to be away, we take over any role necessary: hosting a guest minister, helping out with any service elements necessary, doing the whole service if needed. We are available to all members to talk with if there are any suggestions or concerns surrounding our current services.

Volunteers were rounded up to lead our summer services. The lay-led services have been going very well; there has been a lot of positive feedback from those attending during the summer. At this point, there are quite a few members readily volunteering to do one of these services. We are looking forward to a great line up of offerings beginning on June 15th.

We are currently taking a strong look at our Water Service in September. There has been talk that this service may be lacking in spiritual content. We are looking at ways in which we can make this service more meaningful. The group will be meeting in early September to finish putting our ideas together for that service and to get ready for another Church year.