

Minutes of Senior Education Task Force Meeting – May 14, 2008

Attending: Annette Cook, Sarah Fletcher, Judith Prince, Andrea Smith, Kent Snyder and host Chuck Welch. Unable to attend: Nancy Weinberg.

We thank Chuck Welch for hosting the meeting at the Sullivan Center, and for providing a very nice lunch.

We hope that Nancy Weinberg has a speedy recovery.

We welcome Annette Cook, Director of Senior Adult Ministries at Christ Church, to our group

Judith Prince explained that the Senior Education Task Force is a subcommittee to the Education Task Force of Greenville Vision 2025 under the implementation leadership of Greenville Forward.

Annette Cook described her position at Christ Church, saying that there are up to 2000 people at the church over 50 years old, with about 800 in Senior Adult Ministries, yet there only about 50 active participants. How to get more of the rest involved? We all know the benefits of an active senior life – mental and physical health and enjoyable companionship.

Andrea Smith suggested that some Christ Church seniors might enjoy two programs at Senior Action – Lunch and Learn with a Doctor which meets the second Thursday of each month, and an Older America Month celebration on May 30.

Sarah Fletcher suggested that a busload of Christ Church seniors might attend classes at FULIR (soon to be called OLLI at Furman) on a particular day, say a Tuesday. They could attend classes from 10:45 to 12:15, for example, then the Brown Bag Lunch and classes from 1:30 to 3:00. The Christ Church bus could drop them off and pick them up at 3 o'clock. Sarah gave Annette a draft copy of the fall '08 schedule of courses and will add Annette to the mailing list for brochures.

Other ideas mentioned were (a) personal touch approach – people loved to be asked, (b) ask every participant to bring a friend to the next affair and (c) to have a welcome 'coffee' to make the transition an easy one for newcomers.

Chuck Welch added that at his Lifelong Learning program, three 'r's have been found to be important, in this order: relationships, relevance and rigor (the later applying to important courses).

Sadly, Chuck and Andrea reported that the Federal/State reimbursement for computer courses has stopped because there is no nationally accepted measurement of achievement after course completion. Chuck is working with Joe Perry of AARP to see if anything

can be done to fill the void. **Chuck suggested that Joe Perry be invited to our nest meeting. Chuck agreed to ask Joe to attend.** See below for nest meeting.

Andrea would like to make her lunch program more inviting and enjoyable to participants at Senior Action by having it cafe style. This doesn't meet funding guidelines and she would like to find alternate funding sources. Sarah suggested contacting the Community Foundation of Greater Greenville (Robert Morris, President) for a grant.

Andrea works closely with Vicky Williams of the local Aging Office of the Appalachian Council of Government. **Andrea suggested that Vicky Williams be invited to our nest meeting. Andrea agreed to ask Vicky to attend.** See below for next meeting.

Annette suggested that Directors of senior adult programs at Buncombe Road Methodist Church and Taylors First Baptist Church be invited to our nest meeting. Annette agreed to ask them to attend. See below for next meeting.

Sarah Fletcher is retiring from FULIR after 15 years. She developed the program from 63 students taking 7 courses in fall '93 to 634 students taking over 70 courses in fall '07. Lucy Woodhouse will replace Sarah in June. Lucy will join us at our next meeting, and we all hope Sarah will continue to meet with us. She is most welcome.

Kent Snyder told about a new book on math puzzles for all ages. It was written by a Travelers Rest author and has been shown to generate much interest in people with latent talent in mathematical exercises. It is useful in exercising grey matter (for senior adults) and a fun activity to do with grandchildren. Sample sheets were distributed.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 13 at noon at Christ Church in the All Saints Center.

Kent Snyder