

Re: the recognition and luncheon for people with 25 or more years of membership at First Church, what we do is:

1. This event is hosted by the Membership Committee.
2. Recognition of honored members during the 11:15 (our second) Sunday service - names and year that they joined the church are printed in the order of service.
3. An article with all of the honorees' names is also submitted to our newsletter.
4. We acknowledge the recognition at the 9:15 AM service only, but since the lunch is after the second service we figured they all want to be at the later service.
5. Before the honorees go into the Sanctuary for the service, they pick-up their nametags and a corsage in our Common Room.
6. At some point during the service, the 25+ year members are invited to the front of the Sanctuary to receive words of congratulations and to allow the congregations to recognize the honorees. I believe our Senior Minister will be speaking (maybe the president, too.)
7. After the service, the honorees head up to our Max Otto Hall to socialize until the start of the luncheon. Luncheon will begin around 12:45 or 1:00.
8. Someone on my Membership Committee handles all of the catering details, ordering of flowers, and decorations. I provide a final head count after the RSVPs are in.
9. After the luncheon, there will be a brief program. This year we are asking 3 different honorees to share their reflections of their membership, e.g. highlights over the years, earliest memories, important church activities/events, changes they've experience, etc. We'll ask each person to speak for 8 or so minutes. (We have on woman that joined the church 60 years ago!) We hope these reflections will evoke interesting anecdotes of the past from the others. In a past event, our intern minister led the honorees in a brainstorming of memorable events by decade. They used a flip chart and really tried to tease out important historical information.
10. I plan to have our Membership Book at the event with ribbons marking the pages of each of the honorees so they can recall the folks that joined around the same time, but who are no longer at the church. I'll also have as many of the old picture directories as I can find available to look at.
11. We plan to take photos for our website.

There's really not that much to the event, but it's been a significant and meaningful celebration that the long time members look forward to.

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