



Chapter 11

Membership and Attendance Profile 1949 – 2006

The following profile tracks the flow of membership and attendance beginning in the 1948-49 church year. The office of Vital Statistics was set up in 1948 and the first clerk was George Laible. Information was taken from annual reports, the membership numbers appearing in one part of the report and the attendance numbers reported in another as compiled by the head usher or deacons by headcount.

In analyzing the report it will be noted that the math at times seems inexplicably mysterious. Reports were not always clear as to whether the number was active members only or if it included inactive members. Sometimes there was an actual birth count reported and sometimes it had to be taken from the Cradle Roll or interpolated from information about baptisms or rose dedications if birth dates were listed. Roses were often dedicated for recent former members who had moved away. With Sunday school numbers it is not always clear if the number represents students alone or whether staff and helpers are included for the total enrollment figure. Sunday school numbers for 1990-91 include students from the Church of Peace who were attending Sunday school at First. The word “adjust” or “readjust” means that inactive members were removed from the count or a different system of compiling the number was used.

Membership							Attendance				
Year	Total	Active	New	Removed	Gain	Births	Av.Att	X-Mas Eve	Maun. Thur	Easter	Sun. Sch
1949			41	19	22	8	160	354		359	111
1950	503	442	42	25	17		149	307		341	125
1951	511	456	24	15	9		162	342	176	315	135
1952	532	451	42	21	21		188	265 (kids prog)		348	136
1953		411	32	9	23		184	272k/100 eve	284	352	145
1954		404	29	24	5	11	190	312k/130 eve	297	358	161
1955		408	27	23	4	14					168
1956		411	21	19	3	13					195
1957	adjusted	464	39	23	16	10					157
1958		462	23	30	2	21	209	272	304	301	158
1959		466	26	28	4	7	215	347	319	366	196
1960		471	16	11	5	14	219	335	291	386	200
1961		496	40	15	25	14	220 adj	340		344	171
1962		521	34	19	25	8	220	259	266	397	180
1963		539	37	19	18	10	227	398	325	412	180
1964		538	17	19	-1	8	222	398	296	275	176
1965		553	28	13	15	7	221	325	106	286	176

Membership							Attendance				
Year	Total	Active	New	Removed	Gain	Births	Av.Att	X-Mas Eve	Maun. Thur	Easter	Sun. Sch
1966		564	39	28	11	7	226	354	325	255	163
1967		576	27	17	12	4	226	352	316	247	173
1968		606	32	15	30	4	226	331	352	381	186
1969		606	16	16	0	6	206	432		217	189
1970		615	28	19	9	7	209	387	302	383	176
1971		639	36	12	24	9	207	390	277	352	178
1972		659	27	6	20	5	190	394	247	434	176
1973		672	21	15	13	4	181	397	250	373	156
1974	readjust	490	22	13	9	10	194	382	263	409	138
1975		501	23	14	11	10	213	415	blizzard	361	140
1976		513	21	9	12	4	200	414		370	125
1977		522	19	10	9	6	191	434		384	106
1978		556	48	20	30	9	176	380		370	113
1979		558	16	13	2	6	183	478	209	435	97
1980		555	17	20	-3	6	187	389	360	347	109
1981		553	14	16	-2	6	177	414	323	402	102
1982		569	23	7	16	7	150	292	266	245	90
1983	525	463	20	64	-44	9	147	146	180	151	85
1984	522	465	12	15	-3	5	157	272		205	77
1985	509	454	20	33	-13	6	158	250	208	151	86
1986	502	450	8	15	-7	8	147	225	152	85	69
1987	493	441	9	18	-9	3	148	220	165	250	84
1988	500	449	18	10	8	7	142	240	148	219	75
1989	497	448	7	10	-3	2	144	247	121	242	61
1990	487	439	7	17	-10	5	131	216	116	225	98
1991	487	439	16	16	0	2	131	221	102	188	91
1992	492	444	15	10	5	2	134	223	60	256	67
1993	484	436	15	23	-8	4	127	231	92	214	70
1994	478	430	8	14	-6	1	111	220	97	192	63
1995	474	333	16	20	-4	2	99	194	94	194	60
1996	468	327	10	16	-6	2	109	212	111	162	55
1997	481	340	29	15	14	3	109	209	97	156	42
1998	475	334	7	13	-6	2	95	230	89	149	42

Membership							Attendance				
Year	Total	Active	New	Removed	Gain	Births	Av.Att	X-Mas Eve	Maun. Thur	Easter	Sun. Sch
1999	479	338	10	6	4		97	227	88	170	total fam avg
2000	488	347	16	7	9	4	111	224	100	195	av 30
2001	485	283	5	8	-3	4	96	174	59	169	54
2002	488	287	15	11	4	3	91	194	62	140	av 22
2003	476	277	3	13	-10	4	91	188	43	132	av 21
2004	471	274	11	16	-5	4	88	180	66	169	av 23
2005	457	261	3	17	-14	3	79	183	46	148	
2006	442	241	4	25	-21	2	76	162	54	133	

Additional membership figures from George Laible's history narrative: 1857-12 members, 1860-33, 1904-137, 1906-133, 1916-176, 1924-212, 1926- 241, 1930-263, 1933-317, 1934-323 with 277 active members, 1935- Rev. McQueen took in 117 new members for 394.

Note 1: see highlighted year 1974. From the ministers annual report Rev. Don Chapman wrote: "One of the areas that troubles me very very much in the life of our church is attitudes which we encounter more and more, of let some one else do it. We need teachers for Vacation Church School. We need church school teachers. We need help for undecorating the church following Christmas. We need- during the course of the year—all sorts of help- some skilled— some one-time needs – some recurring needs. The most common expression we hear is that I will not be tied down—or I've already done my share- or why can't someone else do it?..... The future of our church depends on the development of this joy in our fellowship, in our willingness and eagerness to participate, in our desire to share one with another."

Note 2: see highlighted year 1984: from the annual report: announces a two year growth program using the guidelines of the Homeland Ministries with a concentrated effort by the pastor, deacons and several appointed committees for the attraction, hospitality, cultivation/orientation and assimilation of new membership.