

Draft Recipe for Fall kickoff (when held on All Saints' campus)*
Jeff Rensch 5/1/06

*(Margaret Wootton is preparing a recipe for kickoffs held off campus at a park.)

Kickoff is usually first Sunday after Labor Day, after 10:30 service. This is the opening day of church school for kids and traditionally (I think) the day choir begins singing after summer break, the day adult forum resumes, etc. Nowadays our summers are so active at church that the kickoff doesn't stand out as much as it used to. It's still a great day to bring a friend and invite newcomers.

Here is what we did in 2005, in timeline format:

1. By early August: Chairperson recruits a chef for grilling (John Plocher and family did this in 2004). Laura Biche has kindly donated a grill to the church -- we just need to make sure it's still around! Chef for grilling in the past has brought charcoal etc.

2. By early August: Chairperson checks in with Children's Ed leader re youth activities. (Usually during the kickoff teachers hold an open house where parents sign their kids up for church school.) Also check in with Youth Leader -- youth group can help with table setup and more.

2. By last 2 weeks in August: Chairperson or other volunteer prepares signup sheet for attendees (name, contact info and "appetizer, salad or dessert". Begins taking signups in last few weeks of August. Volunteer makes announcements at church, writes a bulletin notice. By now it needs to be decided who will be setting up and clearing tables and umbrellas the day of the kickoff.

3. Saturday before kickoff. Volunteer goes to store like Costco to buy hamburger, hotdogs, buns. Nothing too gourmet! Signup sheet will help us know how much to buy but not everyone signs up who later attends, so some guesswork involved. Usually about 60 people total attend kickoff. Church will reimburse for food. [I AM BLANKING OUT ON WHAT WE DID FOR DRINKS. MAYBE WE BOUGHT SODAS, IN WHICH CASE WE MAY NEED A COOLER WITH ICE.]

4. Morning of kickoff. Volunteers set up tables and umbrellas in the patio. This would be a great place for the youth group to help out. Best time to setup is between the 2 services because process can be a bit noisy. If youth group not available, there is a Table setup team -- they wd need to be contacted in August. (John Sawka, Jake Warde, Jeff Rensch, a few others.) In 2005 folks brought the pingpong table out -- the more games for kids the better. We use paper plates and plastic silverware from kitchen to help with cleanup later. Chairperson puts out small basket for donations (don't forget to collect this basket at end of kickoff and put the money in a safe place). Maybe \$10 per family but no one turned away.

5. Kickoff day. Everybody has fun! After it is over, the best plan is to call for a few attendees to help put tables and chairs away and do some clean up. Grill needs to be cleaned and put away (or left for sexton??). I think that's it.