

I second John's recommendations about trimming the trees - all of them! Some hang over booksale tables and others hang too low right where the best shady spots for tables are. Yes, yes, yes - fill in the low spots in the lawn so people don't trip. Put the lemonade table almost up to the sidewalk so people don't have to step on the grass, trip on the sprinkler, etc. to get to lemonade. Be careful that the music, beautiful as it was, is not too loud. Be sure someone on clean-up can lock everything up. A few more volunteers who can lift heavy items would be very welcome at set up and clean up time!

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>>> John Plocher <John.Plocher@Sun.COM> 8/28/2006 1:48 PM >>>

> the music in the church and the open doors to the church was a
> welcome
> innovation this year
> It is a nice implementation of David Mann's "front porch" idea of
> outreach.

Sunday there were several dozen people - families, couples, mothers with strollers and singles - that made their way into the church and spent time meditating, sightseeing and relaxing. I don't recall there being many times on Sunday that there wasn't someone in the church (the chapel, on the other hand, was almost completely ignored). As an outreach tool, having the doors open and music playing was a **great** beginning - let us pray that the seeds that were planted this weekend bear fruit!

Some things we could do to improve the experience for next year:

As an outreach opportunity, it would have been nice to have someone (clergy/vestry?) on hand who could focus on simply interacting with these visitors - to represent our parish, to show them around the facilities, answer their questions and welcome them into our community as guests - even if just for the day... The lemonade and book sale staffers certainly did a lot of this, but they were (by the nature of their tasks) physically unable to meet one on one with guests as they explored All Saints' grounds.

We need a more formal/scheduled post-cleanup lockup task - as it was, nobody was sure who was going to lock up (or even how to do so). Saturday, the church itself stayed unlocked until Ian came by at 11pm; Sunday it was the luck of the draw that Anne, Katy and Jake were there at the end of the day...

We also need to schedule a couple of people at the beginning and end of each day simply to setup and cleanup. Expecting the "staffers" to do double duty meant that the cash box was unattended at times and/or that customers were turned away because nobody was available to take their money. This may be more of a tables&chairs and book sale issue than a lemonade stand one...

We need to remember to trim back the trees that hang down over the walkway in front before we set up tables of books underneath them :-)

Using the sound system to play Mimi and choir CDs was a great idea. However, without some sort of volume control, at times the CD player was overdriving the speakers/amp, resulting in painfully loud, distorted music.

Having several *dozen* boxes of unsorted books show up the day before the book sale just about killed us. We had no time to look through the boxes, either to look for inappropriate materials or to familiarize ourselves with the content to aid in sorting; it physically overwhelmed the volunteers who showed up Saturday morning, and doing this sorting "on the fly"sucked up a lot of time on Saturday and Sunday that would have been better used in setting up the tables and getting ready to sell books.

The front lawn out where we set up the lemonade stand is full of holes and dips that are laying in wait to trip up visitors who have difficulty in walking (anyone with a cane...), who are carrying awkward objects (like bowls of cold lemonade) or who otherwise are not as resilient (not to mention as close to the ground) as a 6 year old! We need to fill in the low spots (with sand so the grass grows through it?) before we do this again next year.

Having the fall activities poster would be great. However, I did make small handouts that listed service times and few people took them. But, a flyer with activities listed would be great. We could at least point it out to people who ask what we are doing this for - just okne of our many activities we could say, feel free to take this flyer!