

## SENIOR OUTREACH REPORT TO CUMC COUNCIL

Senior Outreach programs and activities have continued to be busy during the past two months.

### SERVICES AND REGULAR PROGRAMS

1. Issues in Aging: (Group meets the First Tuesday of each month at 10:30-11:30am) Last month the presentation on Poly-pharmacy was attended by 12 people. This was less than our usual attendance.

In July, our program will be done by a expert in helping boomers and seniors organize and downsize as needed to stay in their homes or when they decide to downsize to a smaller residence.

In August, Pipa Downs, a cellist, will discuss the music program that she does at Wyndmere and how this music is used for it's therapeutic benefit in this senior community.

In September we have had a request to do a program on how to create/use Facebook accounts. We will be looking for a presenter who can do this for us.

2. Exercise for Life: (Group meets Tu/F 1:30-2:30pm)  
Continues Tu/F . Attendance is down to an average of around 12 this summer. We have added another back up instructor, Sony Anand, who will be available to fill in when Mary Boyer our lead instructor and Marlene Stotz, our continuing back up instructor.

3. Reminiscence and Fellowship Services: (Services meet second Tuesday and third Wednesday respectively at 10:30-11:30am) No changes have been made

4. Community Quilters: (Group meets second and fourth Monday 9-12am)  
The group is working on a plan for a quilt show in the sanctuary that will be similar to the one we did last year. The dates chosen are Saturday, September 7 and Sunday, September 8. Members of the congregation will be invited to share their heirloom and best loved quilts to be hung in the sanctuary on these dates. In addition, members will be invited to enter their quilts in a contest for the "best in show" quilt that will be entered in this year's Quilt Show at Cedarlake Village and hopefully win the \$1000 prize that can go toward paying our apportionment again this year.

5. STARS: (Meets monthly on the second Thursday 1:15-2pm for the service and 3-4 for the breakout support groups)  
Last month we had a request to broaden our group to include individuals with chronic or life threatening illnesses and their caregivers/family/friends. This was discussed with the participants during the May meeting and the consensus was that this would be possible if we structured the program in such a way as to have all participants attend the service with communion if desired, then the participants would break out into three groups: Caregivers/loved ones/friends, Stroke Survivors, and those with "invisible illnesses" such as ongoing cardiovascular disease, those with cancer and/or have survived cancer, COPD, ongoing neuromuscular diseases, and pain management issues. These interfaith services/support groups are available to anyone in our area who wishes to attend regardless of their religious affiliation.  
We plan to begin to let others know about the change and begin the new schedule in August, 2013.

6. Westbury Services: (Meets at Westbury Care Center on the third Tuesday of the month at 10-11am)

We have continued to travel to Westbury to provide a monthly service with communion for the residents. Jeanette Bartels has joined our team as a regular volunteer who will assist with the service. Others from our congregation who volunteered in May were Nancy Whittington and Pat Shanower who we hope will also join us in the future.

#### OTHER

1. Hearing Loop Installation: Last month Barbara Dabrowski, Rich Kaffka and I submitted a request to the Retirement Research Foundation's (RRF) Accessible Faith Grant (AFG) group to help fund installation of a hearing loop system in the Sanctuary.. Last week we heard from Shelly Sandow, the accessibility consultant with RRF, who said that, due to the number of grant requests they had received, our grant request could not be reviewed before January, 2014. She asked us to revise our projected completion date (August, 2013) and to let her know how and if we would be able begin the project before then.

After discussion, we decided to change our start date to January 2014. Based on the cost estimate for the project (\$12,500) and the expectation that RRF will fund up to half of this cost, we know that we will need donors to contribute the other half of the cost. In anticipation of the hearing loop installation, we currently have had ~\$800 that has been donated and earmarked to go toward the cost of the hearing loop installation.

Many in our congregation are enthusiastic supporters of this project due to a personal hearing loss; others support the project due to the desire to make our church accessible to those with hearing loss who have not been attending services because they cannot adequately hear the speakers or the music. At this time we are considering how donations toward this project can be obtained.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sylvia Kupferer  
Facilitator, Senior Outreach