

SENIOR OUTREACH REPORT TO THE CUMC CHURCH COUNCIL NOVEMBER 13, 2013

Senior Outreach programs and activities have continued to work to meet the needs of our faith community.

SERVICES AND REGULAR PROGRAMS

- **ISSUES IN AGING:** (Group meets the First Tuesday of each month at 10:30-11:30am) Graham Wills presented a very useful program on “Social Media” in October. A PDF document is available for the talk. Graham will meet with the group again in January to continue the discussion and to answer questions that have arisen since October. Our speaker in November was Stephen Erickson who led a discussion on the new POLST (Physician's Orders for Life Sustaining Treatment) legislation and implications for us all.

In December, the group will tackle a very difficult and controversial discussion of “Life and Death in Assisted Living” following a PBS Frontline presentation of an investigative report of Emeritus Senior Living, a major provider of these assisted living facilities. A copy of the DVD is available in the CUMC library for viewing prior to the session. Sylvia will lead the discussion as we look at levels of care available for seniors who need assistance and how to get the information you need before making a decision for yourself or your loved ones about alternative living situations.

- **EXERCISE FOR LIFE:** (Meets Tu/F 1:30-2:30pm)
An average of 14 people have attended sessions during the past two months.
- **REMINISCENCE AND FELLOWSHIP SERVICES:** (Services meet Second Tuesday and third Wednesday Respectively at 10:30-11:30pm. Our long time friend, Melinda Creasy, will be moving on from her position as Activity Director at Sunrise Senior Living on Chicago Avenue. Her last day at Sunrise will be November 13 and the new Activity director will start on November 18. We will be making sure that we touch base with the new director and work to continue our relationship with them as it has been in the past.

- **COMMUNITY QUILTERS:** (Group meets second and fourth Monday 9-noon)

The Quilt Show at CUMC was beautiful this year. Joan Uebele's quilt “Grandma's Folly” won the day and took home the Resident's Choice award at Cedarlake Village. The \$100 prize went toward paying apportionment.

- **STARS** (Meets monthly on the second Thursday 1:15-2pm for the service and 2-3 for the support group) Surprisingly, we have needed to add a protocol for arranging for childcare for some of our younger survivors. One of our survivors and one of our volunteers participated in Skyrise Chicago on November 3 and climbed the Willis Tower as a part of the 2013 Rehabilitation Instruction fundraiser. Also of note was the STARS Seminar and training session held on October 17 for program volunteers. Joan Guest with Samaritan Interfaith led the group in a discussion of the needs of stroke and chronic illness survivors and their caregivers. Our group is growing and continues to be well received by participants.
- **WESTBURY SERVICES:** (Meets at Westbury Care Center on the third Tuesday of the month at 10-11am) We have continued these monthly services for residents at the center. Our average attendance is around 25. Recently we became aware that some of the participants now consider CUMC their church and that we need to discuss a way to offer these individuals an opportunity to become an “associate member” of our congregation.

- **OTHER: HEARING LOOP UPDATE**

We were pleased to find that the installation of a state of the art hearing loop system has been included in the 2013 budget as a capital improvement at CUMC. Many of our hearing impaired members are looking forward to being able to clearly hear services in the sanctuary. A history of the evolution of the project and it's current status appeared in the November 1 etidings. During a discussion with the Trustee group on November 4, questions arose about how the loop would benefit those members who do not have a T-Coil in their hearing aids. The group was informed that two loop receivers with headphones would be available as a part of the contract for those with hearing or hearing aids without T-Coils. Based on a suggestion that additional information about the loop receivers with headphones was needed and that we need a better idea of just how many of the receivers we will need to serve the needs of these members of congregation, on November 18 a survey will go out asking members to let us know how many of them would need and use the loop receivers if they were made available to them. Sylvia and Linda Krazinski will tabulate the responded and order additional loop receivers based on the results. In the letter that will go out, members who have indicated that they wish to donate money to help to pay for the hearing loop system will be asked make sure their donation is marked "hearing loop system". To date, we have donations in the amount of almost \$7,000. Our goal is \$14,000. We have selected Hearing Loop Systems as our vendor and their estimate of cost was \$12,500; however, we anticipate that the cost may exceed this since it has been almost a year since the quote was obtained.

Respectfully submitted,
Sylvia Kupferer
Facilitator, Senior Outreach