

SENIOR OUTREACH REPORT TO THE CHURCH COUNCIL
SEPTEMBER 10, 2014

At the end of July we took the time to sit down and review the program and plan for the CUMC Senior Outreach Ministry. We found that the ministry has been growing to meet the needs of the seniors in our congregation and in our community. These are some of the highlights of our discussion:

1. Our STARS (Spiritual Time and Renewal After Stroke) program begun in February, 2013 continues to thrive. We found that, in addition to stroke survivors, that there were individuals and caregivers in our community who are living with chronic illnesses and disabilities who needed the kind of spiritual care and support this ministry provides. Now that these folks are attending, we plan to update our name. If you have suggestions, please let us know.
2. We had a successful summer with our combined Reminiscence and Fellowship Interfaith Senior Services and are considering continuing to use this combined format.
3. Plans were made to improve the music that we use at Brookdale Care Center (formerly Westbury). We are looking into finding music on CD that can be used for these services since we do not have access to a piano in the room where the meeting occurs at Brookdale.
4. Our Exercise for Life class attendance has been lighter during the summer, but those who have attended continue to find this a great way to have fun while exercising with friends.
5. Community Quilters have finished our "Super Hero Capes" and have been working on bags for UMCOR school supplies. Now we are getting ready for the annual quilt show on the weekend of September 20-21. We are looking for quilts that our members want to bring to hang in the sanctuary this weekend and those who want to enter in the quilt contest. On September 8, we will be meeting with the Studio group to talk about our shared love of sewing and crafting and how we can possibly combine our groups.
6. Issues in Aging seminars will resume on October when our speaker will talk with us about the CAGE self administered screening tool that can be used to determine whether we are experiencing memory decline.
7. We are very pleased with the feedback we are getting from those who are using the Hearing Loop system in the sanctuary. We are talking about how to further update and enhance the sound system currently in use. With the assistance of Dean Craig we have discovered that the hearing loop can also be used in Fellowship Hall. We contacted Todd Billin with Hearing Loop Systems who has given us an estimate of \$1200 to connect the two rooms to the same loop if we use the portable sound system in Fellowship Hall.

RECOMMENDATION: That \$1200 be included in the budget for capital expenditures to cover the expense of connecting the portable sound system in Fellowship Hall to the current hearing loop.

8. The Outreach Team is looking at ways to invite more seniors in our community to participate in our programs. Lauren Rheingrants is working with us as we explore various ways to do this.

As always, we are thankful for the volunteers who support our programs and are always looking for ways to be sure that folks in our congregation know about and take advantage of our programs either as participants or volunteers.

Respectfully submitted,

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Facilitator, Senior Outreach