

CUMC CHURCH COUNCIL
SENIOR OUTREACH REPORT
February 8, 2016

During this winter, several of our usual programs are on hiatus including our monthly Senior Seminar and the Interfaith Service. Both will resume in May. Other programs have continued including Exercise for Life on Tuesday and Friday, STARS on the second Thursday of the month, and our two outreach services; one to Brookdale Care Center on the first Tuesday of each month and one to the Ecumenical Adult Day Care Center in Naperville on the fourth Friday of each month. Thanks to all of our team members who have kept these services going during my absence.

We are looking forward to the opportunity to consider ways to further develop our programs for seniors in our church and in our community. April will bring an opportunity for our team to meet (date and time TBA) and discuss the following:

1. Due to the success of the two musical concerts we have sponsored (Mozart's Sister, and Debussy), we want to continue these programs at least twice a year. As you may know, on Sunday, May 15 at 3pm, we have already scheduled **Deep River, A Spiritual Journey** with Henry Pleas, tenor, Henry's mother, Rev. Sylvia Peas, storyteller, and Chris Garofalo, piano. Our next program will be scheduled in the fall. We are thankful to have Chris helping in our planning of these programs.
2. We continue to look forward to working with the Community Players to bring to life **The Mighty Ted**, a musical comedy written by Ted Waltmire, a member of our **STARS** program. Following a stroke several years ago, Ted took classes with the Second City group in Chicago, wrote a musical comedy about his life experience post stroke, and has had it produced and performed in Chicago twice. He is currently doing an update and adapting it for our Community Player group. It is our plan to publicize this event in our local area and hopefully bring a little information, inspiration, and hope with a touch of humor into the lives of others with similar long term illness or disability issues and their families.
3. We want to re-think the way we have been doing our **Senior Interfaith Services** each month. Currently we have only two homes (Silverado and Sunrise Chicago Avenue) who attend fairly regularly. We need to decide whether we want to continue these services, and if so, how we can attract the interest of other Senior Care Centers and encourage them into bringing their residents to the services.
4. Our **Senior Seminars** were sparsely attended last year. We have been approached by a number of providers in the local area who are interested in participating in senior programs and we are considering going to a quarterly informational program with lunch provided. We are looking at topics currently trending for seniors including changes in health care availability and services that meet personal care, mental health, physical and spiritual needs.
5. It is also time to begin to plan for **A Celebration of Wisdom**, our yearly tribute to those in our congregation 90 years old and older. This important celebration helps us to recognize

and appreciate the lifelong service of these folks and the impact that they have had on our church and our lives.

6. We have been fortunate to have the kind of support from our pastors and church staff that continue to make it possible for us to continue our programs. Unfortunately, our volunteers have been fewer over the past years for a number of reasons including disabilities, deaths, retirement and moves out of the area. We want to look at recruiting more volunteers to help out with our programs. Ideally, in the next budget year, we can consider the possibility of recruiting a part time Senior Minister to administer and coordinate our program.

Respectfully submitted,

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