

Senior Ministries for All Generations Report

November 2016

The Senior Ministry team of CUMC has continued to assess the needs of our community of faith and work to make sure that our programs address those needs in the following ways:

1. We have re-designed our **Successful Aging Seminars**. Attendance at the monthly seminars was low, and in talking with participants, we found that many of them had conflicts for the monthly programs. As a result, and with the help of community sponsors, we have implemented a plan to have the seminars quarterly over the noon hour and to provide a light lunch with them. The next seminar will be in April with the theme related to ways to provide information to families and caregivers about early signals that a loved one might have a problem and the demands of caring for a family member with cognitive loss as seen in Alzheimer's Disease. Our community sponsor will be Silverado of Naperville.
2. Our monthly **STARS** program (Spiritual Time And Renewal for Survivors) has continued providing an opportunity for participants to refresh their faith and share with others along their personal road to recovery. We had an opportunity this year to go as a group to see one of our Survivors in the Naperville Summer Theater performance of *Spamalot*. Special thanks to our volunteers who help with this program including Mary Kay Doody, Bonnie Valiant, Jolene Bastunes, Betsy Roche, and Carol Cottner.
3. Our **Interfaith Reminiscence and Fellowship Service** had difficulties during the past year. This service is designed to meet the faith based needs of those currently living in senior residences in the local area; however, due to staffing changes and the staff intensive nature of these out-trips, our attendance was sporadic. We made a decision to put the services on hiatus at the end of spring and re-think how these services could be re-branded and marketed. In the interim, we had a contact from one of the senior facilities asking for us to resume the services, so we re-started the interfaith services in October. Due to construction plans, we have moved this service to the Chapel instead of the parlor where we had been meeting and now, instead of light refreshments, we provide a treat bag to those attending. Special thanks to Joyce Brunsting who brings her own creativity and energy to our services.
4. We have continued our monthly outreach services for both **Brookdale Senior Care** Center in Lisle, Illinois and the **Ecuminical Adult Day Care** Service in Naperville.
5. **Exercise for Life** will soon enter the fifth year of existence. Our attendance varies depending on who is free and in town, but we maintain an average attendance of 8-10 participants for the bi-weekly sessions. We have moved to a Tuesday/Thursday schedule to accommodate the needs of our lead instructor.
6. On Saturday, June 4-5 again honored those in our congregation who are 90 years old and older during our **Celebration of Wisdom**. This year's celebration was wonderful as we enjoyed special music by Mark Miller at the Saturday Heritage service along with introductions of our

celebrants by many of the youth in our congregation. Following the service, our honored guests and their families enjoyed dinner with us in the Parlor. Special thanks to Lynda and John Krazinski who provided the planning, energy and leadership for this event.

7. We continued our quarterly sponsorship of **Community Concerts** in conjunction with our director of music ministry, Chris Garofalo. We look forward to continuing this wonderful way to showcase local talent and introduce our community to our facility and our programs.
8. With the help of George Groves, Tom Kupferer, Nate Burke and members of our STARS group including Bob and Judy Smith and Bonnie Valiant, the lack of **accessible seating for those with disabilities** and an initial plan to remedy this finding was implemented. The plan included moving pews to provide accessible seating for 3 individuals. We are continuing to look at ways we can accommodate the needs of our those who have mobility limitations.
9. We are thankful for all of our volunteers who helped with our senior programming. Over the summer we were blessed to have Nikki Young, Rev. Dr. Leo Waynick, Rev. Lynn Pries in addition to all of our regular volunteers.

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