

Senior Ministries for All Generations Report
January 2017

Our Senior Ministry programs have continued throughout the winter with a few exceptions. The Interfaith Reminiscence and Fellowship services are on hiatus until April. Also, the STARS service scheduled in January had to be canceled due to weather conditions. Planning continues as we look forward to spring.

1. Silverado of Naperville, our community sponsor, has indicated that they are interested in sponsoring a program for our April **Successful Aging Seminar** that will provide information to families and caregivers the demands of caring for a family member with cognitive loss as seen in Alzheimer's Disease. We hope to have our seminar with a light lunch in Fellowship Hall if it is available. Date TBA.

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. Our group responded to a request from the DuPage Convalescent Center to help them make Christmas a special time for residents without family or financial resources. After discussion, we collected and sent a \$100 love offering to the center to be used to purchase miscellaneous items needed by their residents. A special thanks to our volunteers who help with this program including Mary Kay Doody, Bonnie Valiant, Jolene Bastounes, Betsy Roche, and Carol Cottner. We also welcomed Pastor Tom to our STARS team in February.

3. Our **Interfaith Reminiscence and Fellowship Service** will continue to meet in the Chapel during construction. We are pleased to have the Bach Bells scheduled to play for our group at our next scheduled meeting on April 12 at 10:30am. Special thanks to Joyce Brunsting who brings her creativity and energy to our services and to Jolene Bastounes who brings energy and joy with her musical talents.

4. We have continued our monthly outreach services for both **Brookdale Senior Care Center in Lisle, Illinois and the Ecumenical Adult Day Care Service** in Naperville and are pleased to have Pastor Tom join our team for these offerings.

5. **Exercise for Life** will soon enter the fifth year of existence. We continue the Tuesday/Thursday 1:30-2:30pm schedule. While our lead instructor, Mary Boyer, was unable to lead the class following a serious slip/fall fracture of her left wrist,

our back up instructors Marlene Stotz and Jan Hammersly have been filling in for her. We look forward to her return following rehabilitation.

6. On the evening of Saturday, May 6 we will again honor those in our congregation who are 90 years old and older during our **Celebration of Wisdom**. Linda and John Krazinski are in the beginning stages of planning for this years celebration and tell me that we will be welcoming 3 new honorees this year.

7. We continued our quarterly sponsorship of **Sunday Musicales** (formerly known as Community Concerts) in conjunction with our director of music ministry, Chris Garofalo. The next concert is scheduled for Sunday, April 30 at 3pm and will feature one of our favorites, Megan Wells in "*Florence Nightingale, A One Woman Play.*" We will be alerting all of our nursing friends who will want to see this one for sure! Florence Nightingale is best known as the "Lady with the Lamp" and the mother of modern nursing for her work during the Crimean War between 1854-1856; however, her life both before and after the war was also pretty interesting.

8. As a part of our ongoing efforts to assess the needs of our congregation, the **Artisan Group** is in the process of making portable cushions that can be used by our congregants during services. This effort was begun when we found that many of our congregants reported that our sanctuary pews were uncomfortable to sit on without a pad. We also noticed that some of our congregants were bringing portable cushions to sit on during the services and that gave us the idea that providing pads would be a good idea.

We continue to be thankful for and blessed by all of the folks who help with our senior ministry.

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