

SENIOR MINISTRY REPORT TO CHURCH COUNCIL
October 11, 2017

Our Senior Ministry continues make needed changes to offer a variety of spirit based options to enrich the lives of members or our congregation.

1. I recently attended a “60+ Retreat” sponsored by the Northern Illinois Conference (NIC) Council for Older Adult Ministries. The council pointed out that older adults are the fastest growing population in the church and that it is important for us to provide programming that recognizes their potential, ensures their full participation and celebrates their contributions to the church and society.
The stated mission of the conference was to serve to enrich the lives of older adults in the NIC through ministries (education, training and service). I was pleased to be able to share information with the group about our programming for seniors and to learn more about what other churches are doing.
As a result of this experience, a new ministry is being explored that will reach members who have served or are currently serving our country in the military and in other service occupations. I am currently putting together a group who can help to bring this **Service Ministry** to life.
2. **STARS** (Spiritual Time and Renewal for Survivors) continues its mission for those who have survived stroke or other long term illnesses and their caregivers. We are currently working on a plan for an educational program to increase awareness and visibility for our program in this community. Tentative plans include professional speakers for morning and afternoon sessions and experiential groups. It is our hope to include physicians from the Islamic Center of Naperville as speakers. We do have a sponsor who has offered to provide lunch and refreshments for this program.
3. **Exercise for Life**: Attendance for the past few months has averaged about 14 individuals, several of whom come from outside our congregation. I believe the continued popularity of this program founded in January 2012 is due to the excellence of our instructors who keep introducing new methods for exercise. Recently we discovered that drumsticks can be fun to use while exercising!
4. **Sunday Musicals**: The Chopin concert on June 11 was excellent and well attended. We were pleased to be able to assist with the reception for both this event and the Piano Recital and Dedication on September 24. It has been a pleasure to work with our director of Music Ministries, Chris Garofalo, to bring these programs to our community. We are beginning to look at three programs for 2018 and plan to schedule them on the third Sundays of April, July, and October.
5. Due to a number of factors many members of the **Artisan** group have been unavailable over the past few months. We are considering how to move forward and may make a decision to merge with the Knitting group that meets on Monday evenings.

6. Our monthly **Outreach Ministry** continues for both the *Brookdale Assisted Living* Facility in Lisle and at the *Ecumenical Adult Care Center* (EAC) in Naperville. We share concerned with the staff of the EAC and the many Medicaid clients who have been unable to access their services due to budget issues in our state.

As always, we continue to need more volunteers for our programs, but are very thankful for all those who help and support this ministry.

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