

SENIOR OUTREACH REPORT TO CUMC CHURCH COUNCIL
NOVEMBER 12, 2014

Our Senior Outreach program continues to thrive and to work to keep pace with the needs of our congregation. The brochure listing our programs has been updated to reflect the changes that we have implemented to date. Although much of our programming targets those considered older adults, we value the contributions of our younger congregants as volunteers and participants in our programs. As a result we are adding the phrase “for all generations” to our brochure. The new title will be “Senior Outreach Ministries...for all generations.”

1. A group of participants in our STARS group went on a group outing to see a performance of “The Mighty Ted” at the MCL theater in Chicago. This musical comedy was written by Ted Waltmire, a local stroke survivor who is a member of our group and who also starred in the performance. It has been suggested that we look into the possibility of getting this show for performances at CUMC and we are looking into the feasibility of doing this.

We have updated our name to Spiritual Time And Renewal for Survivors since we now have individuals attending our groups who are living with chronic illnesses and disabilities and who want the kind of spiritual care and support this ministry provides.

2. Both of the senior residences who attend our services on a regular basis have had a turn over in their activity directors. We have reached out to both of these individuals and look forward to their continuing participation in our Interfaith services for seniors. We had a successful summer with our combined Reminiscence and Fellowship Interfaith Senior Services and, have decided to continuing to using this combined format for the foreseeable future. In December we will host a musical program for our guests that is being coordinated by Kim Johnson. This year, instead of compiling a Potpourri of songs, verses, recipes and such for our guests as we have done in previous years, our gift to them will be a copy of the advent devotional being compiled by Lauren Rheingans.

3. We are continuing to look for ways to improve the music that is a part of our service at the Brookdale Care Center (formerly Westbury). We have obtained a group of 6 piano accompaniment CD's , each with 150 hymns on them) from Pfeiffer House that provide the piano only back up that we can use with our service. We also received three DVD's that Chris Garofalo found for us that we will be using excerpts from for special music. Our pastors and Lauren continue to make our services come alive with the messages that they provide and communion.

4. Our Exercise for Life class attendance had an average attendance of 11 for the past few months, but seem to be picking up a bit now that many of our regulars have returned from their summer time away. Our lead instructor, Mary Boyer, recently attended a fitness convention/in-service and came back with new routines that we are using for strength and balance. Our newest challenge is to smile and sing along to the oldies and while we exhaust ourselves by working out to the limits of our abilities.

5. The Community Quilters group and the Studio group have officially combined and are now

known as the Community Artisans. The “Super Hero Capes” were delivered to the “Bike Bald” group and were used by the children for the Super Hero Ride sponsored by the Naperville Park District on October 26.

Our group worked hard to put on our annual quilt show on the weekend of September 20-21. The quilt selected as “Best in Show” was Joan Uebele's “Savannah's T-Shirt Quilt”. With the support of our congregation, this quilt went on to win the Cedarlake Village Quilt Show on October 27. The \$1000 prize has been donated to the building fund.

Our next challenge is to have the best ever “Harvest of the Hands” craft fair on November 8. We look forward to having our love of sewing and crafting as our groups come together.

6. The next Issues in Aging seminar is scheduled for October 11 at 10:30am when Mary Helen Ekstam will talk with us about making every moment count with friends who have a serious illness. Our seminars will continue in this time slot (second Tuesday of the month at 10:30) and will continue to address the kinds of life issues that are important to our congregation.

7. With the help of Lynda Krazinski and Dean Craig, the technician from Hearing Loop Systems have connected our hearing loop in the Sanctuary to Fellowship Hall. On the plus side, the project was billed out at less than half of the \$1200 estimate that we had been given. On the negative side, we have had reports of problems with an increased background hum since the connection with Fellowship Hall was made. Dean is working with the technician to troubleshoot the problem and correct it. Tom Kupferer will be working with Dean to develop step-by-step instructions for using the new connection. Copies of the instructions related to the hearing loop system will be kept on file in the CUMC office.

RECOMMENDATION: As we move forward with the plans for the design and construction that are a part of our building plans, it is important that the building committee and architects address acoustical considerations for our members who have hearing loss. Addressing this proactively will assure that their needs are taken care of without the added expense of fixing problems after the construction is complete.

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. The Outreach Team continues to look for ways to invite more seniors in our community to participate in our programs. We are thankful to have Lauren Rheingrass to work with us as we explore various ways to do this.

Respectfully submitted,

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