

SENIOR OUTREACH REPORT TO CUMC CHURCH COUNCIL
FEBRUARY 25, 2015

Our Senior Outreach program continues to thrive and to work to keep pace with the needs of our congregation and community. Weather has been a problem for us this winter; however, we look forward to spring and to involving more of our congregants and those in the community to take advantage of the wide variety of programs we have to offer.

1. Our list of participants in our STARS group continues to welcome new participants who are stroke survivors and long term illnesses and caregivers. We did cancel our planned program in January due to frigid temperatures, but in February, we were pleased have Becky Pundy, founder of the locally developed, nonprofit Respite Endowment Organization whose purpose it is to provide assistance in the form of time out to parents of children with special needs. The organization provides funds for the parents to go “out” and have professional caregivers to look after their special needs child while they are away from the home. This is done in an effort to allow these parents to have some time for themselves either individually or as a couple. We are excited to begin a dialogue with the Community Players about hosting the musical production, “The Mighty Ted”, next year. Ted Wiltmire and representatives from our STARS group have been invited to meet with the planning committee for Community Players at their next meeting.

2. In February, our Reminiscence and Fellowship Interfaith Senior Service had to be canceled due to weather issues. In March, in celebration of St. Patrick's day, we are hosting musical program for our guests with bag piper, Dave Johnson. For this service we will be meeting in the sanctuary. Chris Garofalo will be filling in for Kim Johnson and we look forward to singing some traditional Irish tunes as we celebrate the blessings we enjoy in this life.

Our monthly joint services will continue on the third Wednesday of each month. In addition to residents from senior residences who regularly attend, we are looking at ways to encourage other seniors from our congregation to attend. Also, Lauren Rheingans met with representatives from Independence village to discuss our programs for seniors and to invite their participation.

Lauren and I will be exploring possible grant monies that could be applied for and used to help with transportation for seniors in our community who may want to participate in our programs but are unable to provide their own transportation.

3. Our Brookdale Care Center (formerly Westbury) service in February was well attended by residents at Brookdale. We had an opportunity to meet with three members of our congregation who currently reside at the Brookdale Assisted Living facility and provide communion to them. Pastor Grace has asked us to explore the possibility of providing a monthly service at Spring Meadows in Naperville where others in our congregation currently reside.

4. Our Exercise for Life class attendance continues to run with a lower than average attendance of 10 for the past few months. Our lead instructor, Mary Boyer, has been of town since

January and Marlene Stotz will be leading the class. We were treated with a surprise visit from Mary on Tuesday, February 17.

5. The Artisan Group (formerly Community Quilters and Studio Group) has been busy planning the Craft-a-Thon to be held on Saturday, February 28. Beth Hagemeyer has done an outstanding job of organizing the day and has been able to recruit a number of talented volunteer instructors including Nancy Ebel, Jo Lynch, Lynda Krazinski, Wanda Boebel, Kinda Kurcz, Kay Lawson, Patti Hollingsworth, Mary Garry. We are looking forward to a creative day with our participants.

The Craft room is open and available to anyone on Monday mornings from 9-11:30am. There are a variety of projects that are available for those who want to join in and need some ideas. We are working on cleaning up and re-organizing the room so it looks more like a craft room and less like a store room.

6. The Successful Aging Seminar (aka Issues in Aging) was canceled in February due to the weather; however, we will meet again March 10, and at the request of Don McFee, our program will be a complimentary seminar and hearing screening by licensed Audiologist, Dr Ning Ling, Au.D

We are also continuing to work a plan for a complimentary luncheon and seminar sponsored by the Foundation for Wellness Professionals on May 12.

7. We continue to get positive feedback about the benefit of the loop for those with hearing loss who have the t-coil equipped hearing aid and those who use the earphones. Tom Kupferer and Dean Craig will be completing a step-by-step instructions for using the new connection for Fellowship Hall. Copies of the instructions related to the hearing loop system will be kept on file in the CUMC office when complete (expected date of completion May 31, 2015).

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. This year we are also looking for ways to include some of our younger congregants in our programs in keeping with our new title, "Senior Outreach Ministries for All Generations". We continue to be thankful to have Lauren Rheingrass to work with us as we explore various ways to do this.

Respectfully submitted,

Sylvia Kupferer, MS, RN (Retired)
Facilitator, Senior Outreach