

SENIOR OUTREACH REPORT
TO THE
CUMC CHURCH COUNCIL
Wednesday, July 15, 2015

Senior Outreach Ministries has continued to reach out to seniors in our congregation and in our community. We continue to work toward getting more of our congregants involved as a participant and/or volunteering their time and energy to our senior ministry.

Ecumenical Adult Day Care of Naperville

At the request of the Ecumenical Adult Day Care Center of Naperville, in July our ministry expanded to provide the first of what will become monthly chapel services at the center. Nikki Young, Kay and Garth Lawson and I attended and service and Pastor Sarah gave the devotional. A permanent date of the fourth Friday of the month from 10:30-11:15 has been established. Volunteers have been encouraged to help with the service. EAC has been providing adult day services to our community since 1983 and provides life-enriching programs for individuals with health concerns that make it necessary for them to be monitored by professional staff and volunteers during the day.

A Sunday Musicale Presentation: Mozart's Sister

Those who attended the Mozart's Sister musicale on Sunday, June 14 enjoyed the wonderful storytelling of Megan Wells as she portrayed Mozart's sister and Chris Garofalo who did an incredibly awesome job of playing many of the piano compositions written by Mozart. Following the performance, Megan, and Chris participated in a "meet and greet" reception in Fellowship Hall. The program was attended by 117 people and one dog.

This program was made possible by a generous donation to Senior Outreach activities by the family of a member of our congregation. As a result of a love offering from those who attended the performance, and a request from many of them, we will be sponsoring a similar performance on October 25 featuring the music of French composer, Claude Debussy.

Celebrating Wisdom

We celebrated with members of our congregation who were born before 1926 and their families on the weekend of May 16 and 17. The format of having the first of the three services with a reception on Saturday afternoon seemed to work well for our participants and their families. The "Celebrating Wisdom" booklet was especially beautiful this year and featured a painting by Isabelle Bartel on the cover. On a sad note, since the service we have lost two of our celebrants: Jean Henning on June 13 and Vince Hurd on July 4. They will be missed.

Successful Aging Seminars

On Tuesday July 14 the Successful Aging Seminar focused on the Medicare Medicaid Alignment Initiative (MMAI) that is being implemented in this area and answered questions about how this program may affect health care benefits covered for Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries.

In August our focus will be on new housing alternatives for seniors throughout our country.

Exercise For Life:

As usual, the classes have been smaller this summer due to vacations and other family activities that are going on. We are fortunate to have our lead instructor, Mary Boyer, with us throughout the summer this year. She always seems to have a new exercise to challenge our flexibility and balance!

Interfaith Senior Worship:

We are continuing to combine the former Reminiscence group with the Interfaith Senior Worship group. The majority of our participants are residents at either the Silverado or Sunrise Senior residences in Naperville. Both have had problems with being able to bring their residents to the services due to either bus or staffing problems; however, we look forward to seeing both of the groups this month as Gary Chipman provides special patriotic music as we continue to celebrate the birth of this great country.

The volunteers and other congregants who attended last month's program enjoyed a violin performance by Char Kubik.

STARS:

Our STARS group (Spiritual Time and Renewal for Survivors) continues to meet on the second Thursday of the month. Our group continues to welcome new members and caregivers. Last month we had a fun and lively session as we talked about how our lives turned out differently than we expected as children. We also shared information about community events that were of interest to our members including the "Spamalot" Little Theater performances in July in which one of our members, Ted Waltmire, is a cast member.

We continue to look forward to being able to work with the Community Players next year to present "The Mighty Ted" a musical comedy written by Ted following his stroke. This play has had two different successful runs in Chicago theaters. Ted is currently updating the play to reflect more of his current life activities and successes.

Artisan's Group

Our group continues to make plans for the Quilt Show in the fall as we work together on the "Blooming Nine Patch" quilt that will be one of the stars of our show in the fall. We will not only be showing off our quilt, but will be making it available in a silent auction during the weekend of the annual quilt show that we are planning the second weekend in September.

We have continued our search for the congregational "quilt" that hung in the stairwell between the second and third floors during the early 90's. We have yet to find anyone who has any information as to where this piece of fabric art featuring blocks created by members of our congregation is hidden. Another activity that is ongoing, led by Beth Hagemeyer, is the making of a mantle for Pastor Sarah in celebration of her recent ordination. The group has shared ideas on the various ways that the mantle can be created to be used for multiple services.

In addition, our group is working on plans for a second "Craftathon" on Saturday, October 3 to teach and demonstrate various crafting techniques to those who may be interested.

This group meets every Monday between 9am and noon. Anyone who wants to help cut out blocks, assemble kits, and help with the piecing is welcome. We now have three working sewing machines that are available in the craft room for those who want to help to piece the top. As always, crafters are welcome to come and watch, catch us up on the latest news or work on their own projects during our time together.

Respectfully submitted,
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