

INREACH

PASTORAL MINISTRY

Pastoral Care can be considered in four areas: monthly communions; food and help during sickness, death, new babies; support during other transitions; and prayer ministry which includes laying on of hands for healing during regular worship, cards for birthdays and illness, and weekly letters to our homebound. We have three people taking communion to parishioners and one person writing weekly homebound letters. Other parishioners write cards and visit as needed.

CHRISTIAN FORMATION (ADULT EDUCATION)

During the past year, Epiphany has engaged in a wide variety of adult education programs. *Upper Room Books* has a series of books called *Companions in Christ* which many of us have enjoyed. Having previously done *The Way of Blessing* and *The Way of Forgiveness* we decided to do *The Way of Grace* and *The Way of Prayer* in 2008. Each study is an eight or nine week course which involves some reading and journaling at home, and the sharing of some of that journaling at the next meeting. At each meeting there were also shared activities which helped us better explore the topic at hand. *The Way of Prayer* turned out to be an especially helpful course for many of us.

During the winter months we had a series of suppers and speakers. Kathleen Kennedy Townsend came to speak about her new book on how the churches are failing America, St. Mary's professor Carole Burnett spoke about her trip to Israel and the huge wall that Israel is building to separate Israel from Palestine - and how that is being done in such a way as to increase, not decrease tensions there. A.J. Downs, former English teacher at Gilman, came and read poetry, a program originally created for an Alzheimer's workshop, which touched on loss and the redemption which can be found in loss. Martha and Art Gilbert shared their amazing 85 mile walking pilgrimage in Spain.

Ray McGinnis came and shared an evening with us in April. He has written a book called *Writing the Sacred*, a book which leads us into the writing of our own sacred moments (or writing which in itself creates the sacred moment). We wrote our own psalms to God using models from the Bible's book of psalms! It was very powerful.

The movie *The Way of Forgiveness* was shown twice and will be shown again February 19th of this year. The movie looks at some events which require forgiveness and explores the power and the grace that is present when we are able to forgive. Some of the events explored were 9/11, the killing of the Amish girls at Nickel Mine, Apartheid, personal loss at the hands of other human beings. If you haven't yet seen it we hope you will join us on the showing on the 19th, complete with dessert and coffee.

During the spring, about 18 of us met over pot luck dinners to discuss the book *Soul Banquets* by John Koenig, a book which explores how our fellowship meals can be moments of the Kingdom as well as social events.

There was also a spring Saturday workshop on Spiritual Gifts, and last but not least a delightful evening this past fall with our new Bishop, Bishop Eugene Sutton who discussed his ideas about developing Communities of Reconciliation.

Nicki Ridenour

CARING FOR GOD'S CREATION' TEAM

We are a small group doing our best to inform people about how to tackle important environmental issues, such as lessening out carbon footprint, minimising trash to groundfill and supporting responsible food production.

In 2008 we set up a permanent information table in the Common Room, put on two events and started changing the way things are done at Epiphany.

The events were 1) a dinner with guest speakers from the Johns Hopkins Center for a livable future and 2) a Master Gardener lecture on sustainable gardening.

We have organized recycling of cans and bottles throughout the church and introduced the use of ceramic mugs at coffee hour. We also sold reusable shopping bags at the Spring Fair.

We need more people to help us make more of a difference. If you would like to be involved please do not hesitate tp contact Kim Farrell, Peggey Blades, Richard Fawcett or myself.

Janet Fawcett