

**Director of Learning Ministries
Council Report
January 2009 (for the February meeting)**

January began with Rodger Prois visiting with the Confirmands in their class. Rodger was Trinity's guest speaker for the annual Epiphany event. His speaking at Trinity was also the start of a series of presentations given throughout January, four of them Special Topics Classes in during the Sunday Church School hour. The entire program was sponsored by the Missions Committee.

The Rejoice! Class has been watching and discussing a number of meaningful films, such as *Amazing Grace* and *The Star of Bethlehem*.

The brochure describing all of our learning opportunities at Trinity for winter and spring was printed by the office staff and distributed. The brochure gives all our ongoing Sunday morning offerings plus Special Topics Classes. Studies happening at other times, such as Sup and Study and the Wednesday Women's Bible Study, are described plus a number of small groups at Trinity that meet all or in part to study.

The plans for our next Sup and Study were finalized in January. This will be a Lenten series, taking place on Wednesday evenings between Ash Wednesday and Holy Week. Joe Hunter and the Trinity cooking crew have the dates and are ready to go with the suppers. Three classes for adults and youth are set: The Confirmation Class I Never Had led by Pastor John Brock; Finding Your Place in Ministry coordinated by Judy Collins, Spiritual Gifts Coordinator; and The Great Grandmothers and the Great Mother of Jesus, presented by Vicar Cheri Korte. Registration will take place in February. Due to the lopsided turnout for classes in the fall, we will seek to cap class sizes this time around.

I had the opportunity to teach twice in the Affirmation of Baptism Class in January. More and more, I find the Confirmands and their mentors ready to interact, usually in small groups first and then in the large group afterward. For instance, I asked the Confirmands to meet in their groups to come up with questions on death and resurrection. Then we gathered in the large group again, and I took up their questions which became the substance of the conversation for the rest of the class time. In this way, everyone could feel involved and valuable in the session by coming up with questions and then commenting on those questions—and asking further questions—later on.

I generally find that interaction provides a good and needed element in group gatherings.

Also in January, I met with Jack Bush, Roger Smith, and George Enney to plan out the men's retreat, taking place at the church on February 21. Roger and I will share presenting the program part of the retreat, which centers on matters of faith—making faith real in a day-to-day way and dealing with the doubts that get in the way of our having that faithful lifestyle.

And toward the end of the month, the Educational Ministry Committee met. The agenda covered plans to reconnect and reinvigorate Trinity's Koinonia groups and to launch a pilot effort to have Sunday Church School for children in the summer—led by youth, college students, and other young adults.

Respectfully and gratefully submitted,

Christopher