

**Director of Learning Ministries
Council Report
March 2009 (for the April meeting)**

March did indeed come in like the proverbial lion. You might remember the sleet, ice, snow, rain, and wind we endured.

And, speaking of lions, you might have taken note of the current display in the case in the Gathering Space. It is about *The Chronicles of Narnia* by C. S. Lewis. Angie Clark, the current display maker and coordinator, thought that reminding folk of the sacrifice made by Aslan in the Narnia stories would also remind us, and reinforce for us, the sacrifice Jesus made in our world and stories.

To stretch the lion metaphor a little longer, the lion's share of Wednesday evenings in March—actually, all the Wednesday evenings—was taken up with Sup and Study. When planning a Sup and Study series up to a year ahead of time, the program number I work with is a hundred. For this Lenten series (wrapping up in April), a hundred folk had registered. But a hundred twenty showed up for the first supper with more coming in simply for the classes. And that high number has held throughout the program. I think this speaks to the appeal of the classes and the suppers. The suppers were made by many Trinity folk, coordinated by Joe Hunter. The classes were carefully prepared and thoughtfully presented by our teachers: Pastor John Brock, whose class is *The Confirmation Class You Never Had*; Judy Collins, Spiritual Gifts Coordinator, who has been leading *Finding Your Spiritual Gifts*; and Vicar Cheri Korte, leading and presenting the program *The Great Grandmothers and the Great Mother of Jesus*.

I thank the many people who successfully provided this Lenten Sup and Study—the leaders and helpers and in particular those who attended.

A number of Special Topics Classes were given on Sunday morning in March. Bill Stotler offered three multimedia programs, the last program about the Via Dolorosa or the way of the Cross—that is, the path Jesus took through Jerusalem on his way to Golgotha and his crucifixion.

Judy Collins has been presenting a class about having *10 Great Dates to Energize Your Marriage*. The comments I have heard from participants in this class indicate that the experience has been meaningful and entertaining. And, hey, the homework is to have great dates!

Craig Staller gave an update on *The Lost Boys of Sudan*—what their general state is and how the boys we are specifically supporting are doing.

The rotation classes continue their year-long mission support project with Bountiful Blessings, the family outreach ministry in New Cumberland. Each month, a different item is gathered by our students and their families, which is much needed in our local neighborhoods.

March ended for me with the privilege of teaching the John L. Bush Bible Study Class. It's always a joy to meet with this group. I'm now the class's fifth-Sunday teacher.

Planning for July's Vacation Church School at Trinity is well underway. This month, the leadership team worked on the details of a regional training event for VCS leaders, taking place at Trinity next month.

Respectfully and gratefully submitted,

Christopher