

**Director of Learning Ministries  
Council Report  
March 2010 (for the April meeting)**

I am now serving for the synod on its Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs Committees. Ecumenism is of great interest to me, so this is a good assignment. I attended my first meeting of this committee in early March. I think what will come out of my involvement with this group, among things, are ideas and resources that can, in turn, be used in the learning ministry—or other areas—of our parish.

The bulk of Sup and Study took place in March as well. It's not unusual for attendance at Sup and Study to go roller-coaster-ish during the series or drop off toward the end or what have you. For this Lenten Sup and Study series, however, the attendance began high and remained so throughout. I can only attribute this to the fine suppers served by Trinity's cooks and cleaner-uppers, coordinated by Joe Hunter, and the faithful teaching in the classes led by John Bush and Frank Bertovich, Pastor John Brock, and Nancy Easton. We also had a reliable staff of youth who provided child care; and more volunteers helped with the logistics of this series, overall. One church family came to help clean up because the family decision was made not so much to give *up* something for Lent as to give *of* something for Lent. What these family members gave of were time and effort.

The Educational Ministry Committee met in March. The main three items taken up at the meeting were surveying and promoting a Summer Sunday Church School for children, having a fire drill throughout the church building during the Sunday Church School hour, and the new addition to our current schedule of a breakfast program on Sunday, May 2. The breakfast on May 2 will begin at 9:15 in Room 124-126, prior to the start of the Church School hour. While we're eating and after we're done, the program will be a brainstorming session about learning ministry at Trinity. Brainstorming, by definition, is a group exercise in which ideas are shared and gathered. There is no evaluation of ideas during the exercise in order to encourage folk to think as creatively as possible. So those in attendance—and all church members are invited—will be invited to express topics, comments, needs, interests, and recommendations all regarding our learning ministry at Trinity.

The Sunday morning fire drill during the Church School hour will take place in early fall, once the new school year has begun. The education committee will be coordinating with many persons to have a carefully guided effort for this time. Since an evacuation of the building during the Church School hour means emptying all three levels, I imagine we'll all learn a great deal.

Toward the end of March on Palm Sunday, the Way of the Cross was set up in Fellowship Hall and offered throughout Holy Week as a self-guided experience of the Passion of Christ. Our Way of the Cross, now in its fourth year, was the brainchild of Maggie Ackerman, Jeff Weaver, and me. Next year, a different experience will be presented, which will be determined by the Worship Committee. The current Way of the Cross experience, though, will be offered again in Fellowship Hall in the future—with an electronic version accessible through our church's website all the time.

Respectfully and gratefully submitted,

*Christopher*