

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

At the start of April, the Way of the Cross was set up as a Holy Week offering for the fourth time. This project, conceived by a team made up of Maggie Ackerman, Jeff Weaver, and me, again offered an active, aesthetic, sensory experience of the Passion. Next year, another interactive Holy Week event will be given with the Way of the Cross returning the year after.

Also early in the month, the annual Trinity Men's Retreat happened at the Bongiorno Conference Center near Carlisle. I led the program for the retreat, which was on the relevancy of prayer. We worked through the day defining prayer and considering ways to make prayer a part of our lifestyle, especially in a day-to-day (beyond Sunday) way. Then we analyzed and reflected on the parts and petitions of the prayer that Christians know best: the Lord's Prayer. I believe the men had a good day. I know they enjoyed the venue and want to return there next year.

The newest thing to hit Trinity in April—and for many years at Trinity, in fact—was the Community Health Fair, which took place on Saturday, April 17. Judy Hunter provided the leadership and main coordinating for this event. She was aided by the Evangelism Committee with help from the Fellowship Team and the Social Ministry Committee. I served as a staff advisor and conducted one of the workshops at the fair. My topic was Centering Prayer.

What might impress the observer from Trinity about the Health Fair—along with the full schedule and availability of seminars, displays, screenings, and children's programming—might be the many leaders and helpers from the congregation who served as preparers, welcomers, guides, cooks, exhibitors, workshop and program providers, and visitors themselves. The Boy Scouts were among the many who cleaned up after. It was a full, meaningful day, serving many people.

The task force composing an earlier Sunday morning worship service in the Contemporary style continued to meet in April. In fact, members of the task force along with folk from the Worship Committee and the AV/IT Committee all walked through Fellowship Hall especially at the stage end, speculating and measuring and considering the possibilities for arranging the space for leading worship effectively plus providing sufficient storage and security for furnishings and the band's equipment and the rest.

Two things happened toward the end of the month that I found both appropriate and endearing. Grace Morgan, a highly active member of the congregation, turned ninety (as admittedly many of us do turn). And there was party at the church for her on a Saturday afternoon. It was a fun gathering of family and friends, crowned with many roses, hugs, congratulatory greetings, conversations, kinds of food, and smiles.

The other event was Teacher Appreciation Week in our weekday preschool. The parents of our preschoolers worked with Heather Rose to provide a progressive menu for the teachers to enjoy at the end of each school day: appetizers on Monday, soup and salad on Tuesday, entrees on Wednesday, and dessert on Thursday. The teachers were also given books whose front and end pages were adorned with the painted handprints of their students.

Two rewarding and satisfying ways to complete the month.

Respectfully and gratefully submitted,

Christopher