

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

May 2 brought an innovative program to the learning ministry at Trinity. At the initiative of the Educational Ministry Committee, a breakfast program was held during the Church School hour. There was a good range of participants: church members active in Trinity's learning ministry and those not so active, parents, a couple of younger people, current teachers and leaders in the learning ministry, Council members, and member of the education committee. The topic of the program was, in fact, Trinity's learning ministry; and the format of the program was brainstorming. Brainstorming is a group activity in which folk share impressions, thoughts, ideas, and visions regarding the topic at hand. Since there is no evaluation of things shared, breadth and creativity of comments and suggestions are especially encouraged. The committee came away with a fine list of varied ideas regarding programs and topics for the learning ministry of the church. This list was shared at the committee's meeting later in the month and will become a part of the committee's dialogue and planing in the months to come.

In May, I met with the Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs Committee of our synod. This was my second meeting since my election to this group. I shared with the group my recent experience attending a program of Christian and Jewish dialogue regarding the variety and importance of the Name of God. Our committee discussed upcoming programs such as the LARC (Lutheran, Anglican, and Roman Catholic) Day of Dialogue taking place later this year.

Trinity Preschool Playgroup celebrated the end of the school year in May. There were two days of celebration for the students and their parents. There was also the presentation of a memory book from the teachers to each child. These books are the result of arduous effort on the part of the preschool staff and yet have become an important tradition and remembrance for the families served by the program.

I attended the Men's Annual Breakfast and Program on May 15, particularly in my capacity as advisor to the men's board. This year's meal was good, and the speaker was highly engaging. The speaker is Bob Bennett, the founder of Shoes2Share, a national and international program providing shoes to those of all ages who otherwise would have none.

This month, the pastors, education committee, and I decided to reshape some the school-year schedule for Sunday Church School at Trinity. The school year will now go from the Sunday after Labor Day through the Sunday before Memorial Day weekend. This is for children's and youth classes; our adult classes now go year-round. The new schedule accommodates the flow of family life in our parish.

I was privileged to teach in both the Affirmation of Faith Class and the Sunday morning Bible Study Class in May. While my job mainly has me dealing with teachers and other leaders, it's good to be in the classroom teaching one of the many learning constituencies I oversee at Trinity.

Respectfully and gratefully submitted,

Christopher