

Christian Education Pillar

Annual Report

March 2011

Our Christian Education program set its course this year “to engage in our shared search for meaning and belonging.”



Our classes thus far have been very successful!

We are gratified that classes have had a wide variety of participants including a significant number of young parishioners both as members and teachers. We have encouraged all classes to have both spiritual and experiential components to deepen and broaden the content.

In designing this year’s program, we were informed by the feedback from the Christian Ed Dinners which took place in mid-March 2010 and had 120 participants including a facilitator, a scribe and dinner hosts for each of 10 gatherings. The scribes’ notes resulted in a report written by Betty Foster and Peter Eveleth, which emphasized several needs including: classes of varying lengths, a Christian Ed Council, a paid Christian Ed director and a plan to attract new members and young families.

We were able to offer courses that ranged from ½ day in length to one that had 10 sessions with 2 weekends. This year’s catalog of 30+ course offerings was designed (thanks to Karen Falk), printed and widely distributed in September. To give the Parish an up-to-date sense of the 2010-2011 Christian Education Program, these charts provide a snapshot of participation in classes and events which tells the story of engagement so far:

Participation in Christian Education Classes and Events (May 2010 – February 2011)			
Adult Classes	Participants	Leaders and Supervisor	Total
Forgiveness, Penniman Class	20	4	24
Nuts & Bolts – Adult Training	13	2	15
Introduction to St. Mark’s (2)	15	4	19
Life, Community & Faith – Fall	19	6	25
Baptism Class	10	3	13
Temptation Class	8	5	13
Beyond the Frame (3)	30	5	35
Israel/Palestine – Samaritan Class	33	4	37
Women’s Class	20	4	24
Christian Ed Weekend	23	4	27
Men’s Class	13	4	17
Life, Community & Faith – Spring	18	5	23
What’s an Episcopalian	4	1	5
Totals	226	51	277

Bible and Religious Studies	Participants	Leaders and Coordinators	Total
Bible Studies (Sun., Wed., Thurs.)	21	5	26
Buddhist Meditation (Mon., Thurs.)	55	4	59
Guild Studies – Speaker Series (2)	112	7	119
Guild Studies – One-day session (2)	26	7	33
Totals	214	23	237

Sunday School	Range of Weekly Participation	Number Registered	Teachers and Supervisor	Total
Catechesis Training		9	1	10
Pre-K thru K	8-15	15	4	19
Grades 1-3	8-18	28	4	32
Grades 4-5	5-15	21	4	25
Middle School	7-14	19	5	24
High School	6-11	14	5	19
Totals	34-73	106	23	129

We are pleased to announce that the Penniman Fund, which was to expire this spring, has been replenished with an extraordinary donation. This gift will continue, for an estimated 5 years, to fully fund the Life, Community and Faith (LCF) second weekend retreat for all class participants and to allow current Sunday School teachers to attend the Christian Ed weekend without personal cost. This generous gift undergirds the Program's dedication to making LCF more affordable for the largest number of parishioners and to support our hard-working Sunday School teachers with our enrichment weekend.

Looking to the near future, we are moving ahead with a plan for a return to staggered terms for the Christian Ed co-directors in order to assure continuity, a smoother transition and adequate preparation for the responsibilities of the job.

We are grateful to all those who have taught, supervised, and participated in Christian Education this year. The heart of the program depends on both those who teach and those who take classes – it is the mutual engagement in our community that ensures the belonging we seek.

The Co-directors of Christian Education Program 2010-2012 -- Bobbi Smith, Katherine Loevinger, Will Long, and Penny Farley – look forward to your continued robust participation in the Christian Education program!