

**EFM: Education for Ministry**  
**Report to the 225<sup>th</sup> Annual Diocesan Convention**

The goal of Education for Ministry (EFM) is to prepare adults for Mission and Ministry in the Church. While a large chunk of the four year program of study deals with the Scriptures, EFM is much more than a mere Bible study: it is a way of integrating faith, fellowship, and theological thinking with the life of the believer. Such topics as Old and New Testament, Worship, Ethics, Church History, and Modern Theology are important components of the seminar meetings. EFM is a program administered through the Seminary of the South in Sewanee, Tennessee.

There are currently five seminar groups with seven mentors and forty-three students that meet in various parishes of the Diocese. On April 20th, a presentation on Education for Ministry was given for the Woodbury Convocation. The result was the formation of a new seminar group, which is being mentored by Sister Cassandra Norseworthy. Other EFM seminar groups are located at: Church of the Atonement, Laurel Springs; St. Peter's, Medford; Trinity, Princeton; and Christ Church, Toms River.

The annual joint EFM Graduation (Dioceses of New Jersey and Newark) was graciously hosted by Christ Church, Toms River on May 24th. The Rt. Reverend George Councill was celebrant and preacher, assisted by the Reverend Joan Anders, Rector of Christ Church, the Reverend Joseph Piccard, EFM Coordinator for the Diocese of Newark, and the Reverend Lisa Mitchell, EFM Coordinator for the Diocese of New Jersey.

The fifth Mentor Training Event of the Diocese of New Jersey was held November 9-11, 2008 at Stella Maris, in Elberon. 12 persons successfully completed Basic/Inservice Training and 12 completed a Formation Training on Meyers-Briggs. The Diocese will again host its annual Mentor Training Event at Stella Maris on November 8-10, 2009.

In 2009 we hope to plant add at least one new group and to restart another. When it comes to adult education, I believe EFM has been the best kept secret of the Episcopal Church. Come unmask the secret. We welcome all who are interested in exploring more about their faith and practice. If you believe your parish or convocation might be interested in EFM, please give me a call; I am available to assist you in any way. You may contact me at 732-741-2220 or email [ChristChurchShrewsbury@att.net](mailto:ChristChurchShrewsbury@att.net).

Faithfully submitted,

The Rev. Lisa Sauber Mitchell  
Diocesan Coordinator