

Committee on Life Long Christian Formation Report to the 225th Annual Diocesan Convention

The Committee on Life Long Christian Formation offers workshops, resources, and assistance to Christian educators throughout the Diocese.

On January 19, 2008 the Committee held a Christian Educator's Day with Our Bishop, presenting Storytelling for All Ages, led by Joanne Epply-Schmidt. This day, meant to support and honor both lay and clergy educators, focused on the art of storytelling, and how to engage the purpose and potential for stories in all areas of Christian formation. It was well received by all in attendance.

A Godly Play Certification training was held at Trinity Church, Princeton from March 6 to the 8th. Accommodations for the 19 attendees, from our Diocese as well as others, were provided by Princeton Theological Seminary, and there was interest in more Godly Play events for the future.

Every parish in the Diocese of New Jersey continues to have the opportunity to utilize the Audio Visual Resource Library (AVRL), which is in the Diocese of Pennsylvania. Videos, DVD's, and audio tapes can be ordered by phone (215-627-6434, ext.110) or email (AVRL@diopa.org). The AVRL Catalog can now be accessed online at www.mrconline.org, or through the link as provided on our Diocesan website (please choose 'About the Diocese', then 'Committees', and then click on this committee's name for the link). This service is free to all parishes in our Diocese. There is a variety of material available for children, youth, and adults, encompassing areas from Scripture and liturgy to history, social values, and prayer.

Materials for our own Diocesan Resource Center are purchased as budget allows, and during 2008, we had a subscription with Church Publishing that allowed us to acquire one copy of every new Church Publishing publication for that year. The Rev. Bill Breedlove has graciously and generously spent much time to set up our Resource Center so that it may be accessed on line through the Diocesan website, with the assistance of Sarah Paige. It can be accessed in the same manner as the AVRL link.

The Committee also supports the Hightstown Conference, an ecumenical Christian Formation conference, held in March of each year, as well as supporting Diocesan sponsored Christian formation programs. We are happy to assist any parish that is looking for help with their own Christian Education/Formation program.

We would like to thank all members of the Committee who have served this year: Susan Legnani, and Michael Redpath, Co-chairs; The Rev. Gina Walsh-Minor, co-chair; The Reverends Gregory Bezilla, Lisa Caton, Sheelagh Clarke, Polly Kasey, Emily Griffin, Andrea Hayden, and Mary Jean Metzger; The Ven. Victoria Cuff; Lori Cooper, Donna Devlin, Nancy Miller, Lisa Hoffman, Deb Ellwood; The Rev. Lisa Mitchell, EFM Coordinator; The Canon Kep Short and Debbie Crall, Staff Liaisons.

Respectfully submitted,
The Rev. Debbie Cook, Chair
2008