

The Commission on Ministry with the Disabled Report to the 225th Annual Diocesan Convention

The Commission on Ministry with the Disabled was privileged to speak at each of the Diocese of New Jersey Convocation meetings this year. At these meetings we announced our decision to rename our Commission — we will be known as Oysters and Pearls; A Ministry of Irritation. We did some irritation and presented our hopes to visit and work with individual congregations in order to help make the churches of the Diocese of New Jersey welcoming and accessible to all. We handed out grant applications, accessibility surveys and copies of a book called *Autism and Faith; A Journey into Community*.

In the 2008 budget year we awarded the following grants:

- \$500.00 Holy Trinity, Wenonah for preliminary discussion with an architect
- \$1400.00 Christ Church, Shrewsbury toward a walkway project
- \$1000.00 Christ Church, Shrewsbury toward a sound system project
- \$6000.00 Trinity Cathedral, Trenton for completion of a handicapped ramp

Oysters and Pearls 2008 members:

Donna Devlin, Sheelagh Clarke, co-chairpersons - Elizabeth Papp, secretary - Elaine Bailey, Brother John Baptist, Noelinda Cassell, Barbara Coppens, Tom Devlin, Charlotte Hayden, Rev. Susan Richardson, Jennifer Reid, and Mark Willis