

Report of the Chaplain to the Retired Clergy and Surviving Spouses – Diocese of West Missouri

The mission of the chaplain to the Retired Clergy and Surviving Spouses is to insure that retired clergy, surviving spouses and clergy and spouses no longer directly connected to a local parish/mission in an official capacity are not 'overlooked' as a part of the diocesan family. We accomplish that through cards and letters to those individuals as well as telephone calls, e-mails and visits. We particularly try to remember them on special occasions such as their birthdays.

We also hold periodic gatherings to bring those individuals together for social times and a meal. We have met twice in 2009 at Bishop Spencer Place for lunch. On one occasion we heard a program from Dr. John Corbaley, Director of the Brain Fitness program at Saint Luke's Hospital – Plaza. He spoke about the new treatments that can help older adults to maintain their mental sharpness and also how victims of stroke can recover more physical and mental abilities through the treatments provided through the Brain Fitness program. Dr. Corbaley pointed out that the program is available to anyone in the community. There is a charge for the program.

The second program / luncheon was again held at Bishop Spencer Place. The program was focused on Nutritional Health presented by Glenna Moe, a nutritional counselor that works particularly with cardiac rehab patients at the Center for Health Enhancement at Saint Luke's – both at the Plaza and Saint Luke's Lee's Summit. Not only did she provide good information about nutrition, the meal was prepared to support her information. So we ate healthy!

While not directly part of this ministry, some of the spouses have met together specifically to try to develop something to help surviving spouses in the days, months after a loss. We all become dependent upon the members of our congregations when we are in need and when we no longer have that connection, some of our needs go unmet. We hope to work with that group to better help spouses in need.

As we all know, the diocese is geographically split into the North and South. It is difficult for the chaplain in the Kansas City area to really minister to the retired folks in the Springfield area. Therefore, The Rev's Kermit and Lilly Smith have been appointed to provide this ministry in the Southern half of the Diocese. They began their ministry mid-year.

Faithfully,

Jerry and Brenda Kolb

Kermit and Lilly Smith