

**EPISCOPAL SENIOR MINISTRIES**  
**Parish Volunteer Services**

St. Luke's DC November 12, 2009

This is the first of three regional meetings in November on Transportation Ministries, providing rides to and from church services. The summary of all three meetings, and recommendations, will be provided in the next report to the Board.

In attendance:

Mary Ann Wilmer, Council Chair  
Annie Shaw, ESM Staff  
Eleanor Hill, Calvary  
Joanne Brainard, St. Alban's  
Jonnie Sue Hicks, St. Alban's  
Betsy Bowman, St. Columba's  
Frances Jones, St. George's

Louise Young, St. George's  
Rev. Cassandra Burton, St. Luke's DC  
(Chaplain)  
Carolyn Goff, St. Margaret's  
CB Woolridge, St. Paul's K Street  
Diane Robinson, Trinity DC

Welcome

Invocation by Joanne Brainard

Lunch

Review of ESM Board Meeting by Mary Ann Wilmer.

- Successful Tea with the Bishop on October 8, 2009.
- Overview of Christian Community Group Homes and their Age-in-Place Home Repair and Age-in-Place Volunteer Services. They had 1600 volunteers in the past year and are starting an adopt a senior program. Home Repair – one parishioner from St. George's has used this service. St. Alban's and St. Paul's K Street asked for Home Repair brochures and commented they had been under the impression that these were for low-income residents only.
- Staff furloughs with no lay-offs speaks well of the dedication of ESM staff.
- Name change – ESM will be changing its name to Seabury Resources for Aging, with the home communities as Seabury Senior Living Communities. Mr. Woodridge commented that it was futile to think no one would abbreviate the names.

**Purpose of meeting Transportation Ministries – Questions Asked**

Does your parish have a "rides to church" program?

How is it structured: Is it official or unofficial?

What has been the experience of your parish with providing rides?

What advice in structuring such a program might you give to another parish based on the experience of your parish?

--**Handouts given** 2 brochures for your church office on "Accessible Transportation Options for People with Disabilities & Senior Citizens" and the "Metro Access" guide

--**Outcome:** After the meetings in Montgomery County (Nov 17) and Prince George's County (Nov 18), you will receive a summary of "Transportation Ministry: Best practices and Lessons Learned". This summary of best practices might be used as the basis for an article for your parish newsletter.

--**Next transportation meetings:**

**November 17 @11:30am at St. James Potomac.**

Two speakers: Connect-A-Ride and "Senior Connections".

**November 18 @ noon at Christ Clinton.** The speaker is Wanda Elliott from Metro.

**Summary: Recommendations and shared concerns around Transportation:**

Van: Those parishes who still own a van find it under-utilized and expensive. Retaining drivers, cost of insurance and upkeep, as well as possibility of lawsuits, need for wheelchair access,

make the cost prohibitive.

MetroAccess: Used by many parishioners, the wait time for pick-up and return is exorbitant.

Car-pooling: Informal arrangements are frequent; however, scheduling, wait-times, last minute changes, can be problematic.

Ideal: maintaining independence for parishioners. What if... there was a unified cab voucher program for those wanting rides to church. (There is one for low income residents). Additional subsidies might be provided through a transportation fund (similar to the rectors' discretionary fund) through special offerings. More recommendations, and details on individual parish experiences, will be available in the joint meeting notes on Transportation.

Agenda Item 2:                    Request for **Committees**  
  --Senior Celebrations May 6, 2009 (fundraising & Reception)  
  Louise Young volunteered  
  --Program Planning  
  Betsy Bowman volunteered

Agenda item 3:                    Parish Announcements  
November 15 – St. Luke's Jazz Concert  
November 21 – St. Alban's Homeless walk  
December 2 – St. George's  
December 6 – Calvary Women's Day with Jazz Brunch  
December 12 – St. Paul's K Street and the EDOW, Silent Retreat

**Adjournment Blessing – Rev. Cassandra Burton**

Annie Shaw,  
Recorder