

“Pastoral Care” is the March topic for a series of bi-monthly lunch conversation among parishes. The notes below are from a discussion held for churches in Prince George’s County. These conversations are sponsored by Parish Volunteer Services, a service of Episcopal Senior Ministries for Episcopal churches in the Diocese of Washington.

Location: St. Christopher’s Episcopal Church, New Carrollton

Date: Thursday, March 19, 2009.

Attendance:

Epiphany, Forestville:

June Dove, Parish Contact

Jean Gill

Loretta Smith

St. Andrews, College Park

Sallie Holder, Parish Contact and ESM Board member

St. Christopher's, New Carrollton

Fr. Jonathan Currier, Rector

Stephanie Butler, Parish Administrator

Juanita Moore, Parish Contact

St. Philips, Baden

Carrie Weaver, Parish Contact & member Sr. Ministries Council)

St. Philips, Laurel

The Rev. Sheila McJilton, Rector

Arleen Leis, Parish Contact

Rebecca (Becky) Thomas, Pastoral Care Committee

ESMCares

Susan Walker, LCSW, Care Manager Supervisor for Prince George’s County

ESM, Parish Volunteer Services

Annie Shaw

Opening Prayer led by Fr. Jonathan Currier.

Annie Shaw welcomed everyone by stating the March topic and reviewed the goals for this meeting which focused on pastoral care, ideas and resources to assist pastoral care teams, clergy, older adults and their families within the parish.

Susan Walker facilitated the meeting and discussion after asking that everyone introduce themselves and their roles within their parishes.

Attendees discussed pastoral care using the questions below as their guide:

What are the ministries utilized within your parish to care for the sick, home-bound and or their caregivers? How do you learn of parishioner needs? How are those parishioners who are unable to attend church kept connected within the life of the parish? If you utilize pastoral care teams, what is your feedback/supervision mechanism? And, who provides care to you, the providers of care?

Episcopal Senior Ministries is available to assist you in your work with older adults within your parish. My role as director of parish volunteer services is to support your senior groups or to help find resources. From advice or direct assistance in parishioner’s care management needs, housing, volunteer home repair or to provide speakers to address congregations, ESM is available to serve and assist you in your ministries.

Follow-up from meeting:

From you:

--I'll need the PG County Resource Guide to mail -- unless you want to mail it to everyone as a way to remain in contact -- let me know and I'll send all the mailing addresses.

--the author of Successful Aging (The McArthur Study)

--Cameron Camp - his video on procedural memory

--you also spoke of the AARP reminiscence project

--Respite programs (2)

you urged folks to order the 2009 Medicare book (I'll add that link)

If you don't have this information readily available, I'll research for them online.

from me:

I'll be including the resource materials from the Alban Institute

and the title of Margaret Guenter's book

and the Houck book for Stephen's Ministry Christian Caregiving referred to by Fr. Jonathan.

I'll have some links for the pastoral training from Loyola and Howard Divinity School

What they want:

Training (at least pieces of) for skills needed in pastoral care, i.e, listening, boundaries, what to do/not do, say, not say

Both you and Sheila spoke to the importance of training for pastoral care (and training for folks holding vigil for dying too).

Bringing generations together

how energized everyone was by the possibilities of promoting caregiving, pastoral care, within their congregations.

I'll be emailing/mailling notes of this meeting over the weekend to you and to the attendees. We, as staff, need to figure out what, if any of the pieces of such a training, are within our mission, and what is too large an endeavor. I do feel that some parts of caregiving training might well fall within the scope of care management (and would be useful to ESM Cares); however, the entire training for pastoral care, although noble, is one for the Diocese to pick up and put together.

Episcopal Senior Ministries is available to assist you in your work with older adults within your parish. My role as director of parish volunteer services is to support your senior groups or to help find resources. From advice or direct assistance in parishioner's care management needs, housing, volunteer home repair or to provide speakers to address congregations, ESM is available to serve and assist you in your ministries.