

Member/New Member Care Commission Annual Report-2010

Members of the Member/New Member Care Commission for the year 2010 were:

Joyce Emmons
Yvonne Kilbourne
Marguerite Norrod
Carol Stader
Dave Stader
Sharon Larrance

Peter McHugh
Betty Parsons
Pastor Jon
Pastor Jerena
Mike Rinehart (Governing Board)
Beverly Wesche (Governing Board)

The role of the Commission is to provide care and support for members and friends of the United Church. During the past year the activities and responsibilities of the Commission that fulfilled our role and mission were:

*Conducted the second community presentation to provide current information about respite care and other resources available to caregivers and other interested individuals in the Big Rapids/Mecosta County area. Yvonne Kilbourne, Parish Nurse, organized this event. Various local agency representatives presented information regarding their services with time for questions and answers. This event has been well-received by participants.

*Coordinated the New Member Brunch in November

*Delivered Christmas plants/flowers and Easter flowers to shut-ins and nursing home residents following the Christmas Eve and Easter services

*Scheduled Greeters for Sunday worship services

*Provided and mailed many Cards of Caring to church members and their families, and friends of the United Church

*Kept the pews supplied with Friendship Pads and pencils

*Visited individuals who are homebound, hospitalized and those residing in nursing homes and adult foster care homes

*Mailed the series of Grief booklets designed to assist with the grief process for those who have lost loved ones

*Recruited volunteers to work at the Welcome Desk each Sunday

Our Parish Nurse regularly contacts members and friends of the church who are ill, hospitalized, or experiencing changes in their lives and reports information at the monthly commission meetings for follow-up services such as visits and mailing Cards of Caring.

Mike Rinehart completed the Stephen Ministry course. Stephen Ministries trains lay people "to provide one-to-one Christian care to hurting people in and around" a church congregation.

The church Relay for Life Team raised \$5,690 from the raffle of the quilt created by Alice Bandstra, the cookie and candy bar and luminary sales, support for Connie Lehner's endurance walk, the activities of the church children and youth, and the individual contributions by church members and friends. Combined with \$5000 from the Shaw Foundation this resulted in a total of \$10,690 for the American Cancer Society.

Sandi Morris, Facilitator of the Knitting Group, reports there are 5 individuals who regularly attend the group's meetings. Other participants have been unable to attend recently due to health reasons. The goal of the group is keeping people warm with the focus on residents of Mecosta County. This year the Knitters created 8 full-size afghans most of which are provided to the Red Cross to distribute as needed, 95 squares for use in future afghans, 12 Teddy Bears which are provided to the WISE organization, 1 baby blanket, 1 pair of baby booties, 2 baby hats, 2 children's sweaters, and 17 hats for school-age children which are distributed by RSVP. Sandi encourages anyone who enjoys knitting or would like to learn to knit to come to the meetings as more people are needed to continue the worthwhile activities of the group.

If you are interested in being a member of the Member/New Member Care Commission please contact any of the commission members.

The co-chairs of the commission express appreciation for the participation and efforts of those who have served during the past year.

Respectfully submitted by Mike Rinehart and Beverly Wesche, Governing Board
Co-Chairs