

## **Spiritual Life Commission Annual Report**

The Spiritual Life Commission members in 2010 were Sue Boitos, Carolyn Chipman, Carlene Gahrs, Sharon Hamel, Frank Hartley, Connie Lehner, Maxine Sayre, Judy Tressler and Janet Williams. The Governing Board was represented by Maryanne Heidemann and Allene Long. The Commission received help and guidance from both pastors.

The role and mission of the Spiritual Life Commission is to oversee and manage the spiritual life matters, programs and operations of the United Church under the guidance and direction of the Governing Board. Throughout the year we have prepared communion and scheduled communion servers, liturgists and radio operators.

The Commission members and other volunteers decorated the church for Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas. A Liturgical Arts Committee consisting of Alice Bandstra, Pat Heeter, Jerena Keys, Connie Lehner, Linda Rinehart, June White and Janet Williams continues to enhance our worship space. A number of new banners were donated by Commission members. Choir robes were cleaned.

Our radio operators include Bill Burmeister, Andy Cosentino, John Gahrs, Bob Hampson, Lowell Jacobs, Peter McHugh, Mike Rinehart, Dave Stader, Randy Vance and Joan Wellnitz.

Our music programs continued to provide us with outstanding music. Cate Arroe, Judy Tressler, Connie Lehner, Bev Wesche, Allene Long and Paul Heidemann were recognized for their contributions to the church's music programs on Music Celebration Sunday on September 26.

Allene Long put together a meaningful Lenten devotional booklet featuring selections from current and past members and friends of the United Church. Advent booklets were purchased and are being distributed to the congregation. In July the Spiritual Life Commission sponsored the annual outdoor service followed by a pork barbeque and potluck picnic at Northend Park.

We have been asked to include the Peace Pray-ers in our report. The group came into being in March 2003 following the declaration of war with Iraq. It is an interdenominational group that gathers every Tuesday morning at 7:30 to pray for peace with all nations, cultures, the Earth and people. The group now meets one month at the United Church, and one month at St. Paul's with one Tuesday a month at a B'ahai member's home. Everyone is invited to join in presence or in spirit.

Plans are in place for an adult retreat to be held February 18-19 at Camp Brethren Heights with Julie Kline as the presenter. She was ordained at our church when she worked at Eagle Village.

Since Allene Long's stroke, the commission has been missing her presence and dedication and wishing her continued recovery. As a relatively new member of this commission, I continue to be impressed by the dedication of its ongoing members, who willingly take on all of the necessary tasks to keep the spiritual life of the congregation going.

It has been a fulfilling year.

Respectfully submitted,  
Maryanne Heidemann