

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 2010: once at Bishop Spencer Place and once at Grace and Holy Trinity.

Our February meeting at Bishop Spencer Place included lunch followed by a program with Scott McDonald. Scott is a local pianist that has been church musician at a number of local churches. He also played keyboard for Andy Williams and Glen Campbell in 2001-2002 and toured with Andy Williams in England, Wales, and Ireland. A very enjoyable program!

Our second meeting at Grace and Holy Trinity in October included a lunch prepared by Culinary Cornerstones, the chef-training program as a part of Episcopal Community Services. The director of the chef-training program spoke to us about the future plans for the program. We also had one of the graduates of the program tell us about his experience in the training. An excellent meal and speakers!

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 have gathered the retired clergy and surviving spouses in the Southern half of the diocese for lunch meetings and programs also. Brenda and I are very glad to have them assisting us in this ministry.

Faithfully,

Jerry and Brenda Kolb

Kermit and Lilly Smith