

# Christian Education and Formation

*Growing is always in season....*

September, 2010 - Vol 1, Issue 1

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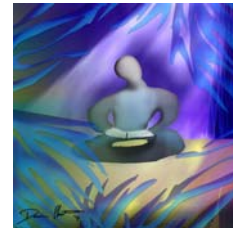
This is YOUR open invitation to  
let us hear from you!

The Christian Education and  
Formation commission  
wants to hear YOUR questions,  
understand YOUR concerns  
and listen to YOUR solutions.

When we listen and share, everyone  
benefits....and this  
as close to Dear Abby as  
we can get! Send your thoughts to  
[Judy Kile](#), CEFC Chairman.

## We're listening.....

How do you best listen - silent meditation?  
books? dreams? scripture? worship? or  
sitting with a good friend and talking things  
out?

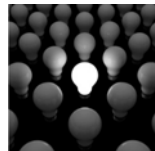


We each participate with God in renewing  
the face of the earth and that's part of who  
we are as baptized Christians as well as to  
our joy. Everything we do in Christian  
Formation as individuals or as parishes goes out into the world.  
Where ever we are - when we're paying attention - that's God's  
talking and a part of Christian Formation.

We do this in so many different ways. Not only is there an  
individual part (learning new ways to be with God) but we can  
expand to include the entire diocese in the process. Part of what  
YOUR Christian Education and Formation Commission would  
like to do within this eletter is exchange ideas. It is exciting and  
amazing stuff - and no job is too big or too small. We hope to  
provide resources and help you find what you're looking for.

A strong passion for the idea of life-long Christian Formation  
and a desire to share things that have worked for the benefit of  
the larger church is what binds the commission together. Thank  
you, in advance, for listening and sharing.

## Best Practices



Let's share some of the good things going on in  
our diocese! What's been happening in your  
parish that has made a positive impact? Each  
issue will include birth through adult "Best  
Practices" from around our diocese in to spark  
your imagination on the possibilities of bringing these ideas to  
your home parish. Send in your Best Practices, along with any  
pictures, to [Judy Kile](#), CEFC Chairman.

To start us off, all formation programs need the occasional life  
breathe that a good, new curriculum can provide. Choosing new  
curriculum can be a daunting experience, however, when a brief  
exploration reveals a plethora of material available, with a  
variety of explicit and implicit goals behind their creation. Two  
curricula new in 2010 include Church Publishing's [Weaving  
God's Promises](#), and Re:form from [Sparkhouse](#) (a subsidiary of  
Augsburg-Fortress). The latter is well suited for youth between  
6th and 8th grade, while WGP is variably designed for children  
from toddler through 5th grade. The Reverend Joe Behen at  
Grace & Holy Trinity Cathedral has been pleased with the early

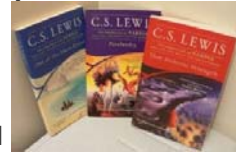
response to both programs. You are welcome to contact him directly at [jbehen@ghc-kc.org](mailto:jbehen@ghc-kc.org), he'll be happy to talk at length about our experience with these and other curricula.

## Book Club -

# BOOK CLUB

This section will contain titles and a little bit about the book to peak your interest. We hope that eventually this can develop into an online discussion forum, but for now, the purpose will be to simply suggest a book recently read by either members of the commission and/or something that one of our readers suggests.

So, our first book is actually three books - the **Space Trilogy by C.S. Lewis**, and recently read and studied by The Inklings Book Group at Grace & Holy Trinity Cathedral and recommended for group study by Fr. Joe Behen. The space setting of this trilogy touches on many of the moral issues wrestled with in Tolkien's *The Lord of the Rings*. Like LOTR, Lewis leans into mythology rather than technology, exploring the nature of our relationship with God, with our world, and with each other in this creative series. The biggest truths of our universe, Lewis would tell us, cannot be grasped in abstract language, but must be experienced through story. This precursor to his later Narnia series is well worth the time to experience, and is likely to produce good group discussion.



Another classic that might interest you, with Halloween coming up in October, is **Frankenstein**, or *The Modern Prometheus* by Mary Shelley. Most of us are familiar with the movie version of the scientist who creates a human from body parts. The novel is actually very thought-provoking from several angles. The responsibility of science/scientists for the outcome of their "creations" is one. The viewpoint of the "creature" and its struggle to find companionship and love along with identity lead one to look at our own relationship with our Creator and our place in the world. Once past the stilted language of early 19th century literature, one can find a wealth of interesting discussion starters for a church Book Club. This is the current reading selection for Church of the Good Shepherd, KC Book Club.

