

Ministry Leader for Spiritual Formation Report – August 23, 2011

Sabbatical Reflection and Renewal Series

Kathy Neil & Lynne Ekdale facilitated a challenging and very well-attended discussion on Rob Bell's book "**Love Wins**" on July 21. Suzanne Gutschow & Kathy Eckert led an in-depth conversation on "**Hospitality: Entering as Strangers, Leaving as Friends**" on August 4.

Caring Ministry Team

This team has done an excellent job this summer visiting persons in the hospital, nursing homes and residences, making phone calls, praying with others, sharing Holy communion and Scripture cards, in cooperation with Deb Bengtson-Ahrendt, our pastoral care support during the sabbatical.

Baptismal Building Blocks Forty children attended this year's VBS: "Jesus Chooses Us," sponsored by Lutheran Outdoor Ministry Center, on July 24-28. Special thanks to VBS coordinators Rachel Jones, Marla Cerven, Dee Hinrichsen, and all adult/teen leaders. The 4th Annual VBS for Children with Autism and their siblings, August 1 - 5 at Eastview Christian Church was another great week. BBB invites everyone to "Get On Board" for Rally Day, and prayerfully seeks a third grade SS teacher.

Eco-Justice Team "First fruits" of the tomato garden are appearing! There was a great turnout for the Saturday night presentation, "Appalachian Treasures," depicting the devastating effects of mountaintop mining removal on its culture and heritage, mountains, forests, and health and livelihoods of its people. RLC has a strong connection to Appalachia through its partnership with Sunset Gap in Cosby, Tennessee. For more info, see www.iLoveMountains.org

Teaching and Preaching I enjoyed teaching the five-week Scripture study and sharing, "There's An App for That," on Sunday mornings, sharing two presentations of the Spanish Immersion experiences in Cuernavaca, Mexico, and leading two worship services at Westminster Village.

Church Council/PMC –

Council finished reading "*We Are Here Now*" by Patrick Keifert of Church Innovations. We invite anyone interested to order the book by August 28 at the Welcome Center, and read along.

Mutual Ministry Team

Current focus is the Partnership for Missional Church effort, praying for the council and congregation, and the assembling of the PMC steering team. They are also reading "We are Here Now" by Pat Keifert, and plan to be a resource for the church as early adopters and supporters of the PMC process.

Women's Ministry - Team Leaders charted a course for this year's journey, including a Breakfast/Jewelry Swap to benefit the Neville House, "The Help" movie, a community-wide Christmas Celebration at the Marriott, Seaside Escape Retreat in January, OSF cooking class, holiday shopping trip and craft fair, and a community-wide breast cancer awareness event co-sponsored by RLC and St. Pat's of Merna parish nurses with ISU Basketball Coach Stephanie Glance as guest speaker.

Be Encouraged!

Kathy Eckert, Associate in Ministry