

Pastoral Care Committee

The purpose of the Pastoral Care Committee is to provide support to members of the congregation who are having a challenging time in their lives or a joyful time.

The committee has been active since September 2012. We began by defining what role we felt we are able to fill in the church. Mostly that includes sending cards or making telephone calls or having a conversation with someone who has a joy or a concern.

Elaine Thomas recently stepped down from the committee, but we were fortunate that Gail McMorrow Donahue joined us in May. Lori Lerude became the Membership Volunteer Coordinator (MVC). She will continue on with the committee, but her role will change in accordance with her new position.

Our committee has been looking for more training in pastoral care. This past year some of us attended a leadership gathering that was held at our church which gave committee chairs the chance to get to know what each committees does. This was the meeting where Gail learned about our committee and joined us.

We have also wanted to divide in to two committees: One focusing on pastoral care and one focusing on parish care. Pastoral Care (highly trained individuals chosen carefully for a 3 year max term, with staggered terms, to serve as a non-anxious presence for members, ideally 3-5 people) and Caring Community (which we learned is also called Parish Care), which is very task oriented like writing a card, making a meal, giving a ride, etc. The Caring Community will need some sort of volunteer management, proposed to be coordinated with the MVC position. The Caring Community Team can be called upon as first responders and organizers of the "helping plan." The MVC could handle the on-line sign ups for the needed "helping tasks." Caring Community would ideally be 4-6 members.

We had a chance to meet with Rev. Allison Palm during Candidating Week. We were very happy to learn of her commitment to pastoral and parish care. Also she is willing to help facilitate some training and provide additional direction for the committee.

Current committee members are:

- Eileen Herring, Chairperson
- Fred Shirley
- Rev. Janet Newman
- Sherri Woolsey
- Lori Lerude
- Joan Connacher
- Gail McMorrow Donahue

- Eileen and I co-hosted "Being Mortal" (include blurb on this...maybe look at what Herb said on HHHC's post about it?? or do you recall much about the showing? I put a recap in the newsletter and can find it if you need it)