

## ST. JOHN'S PASTORAL CARE COMMITTEE

The Pastoral Care Committee has been reorganized as of November 2009. The group is an enthusiastic collection of volunteers, many of whom have been involved with pastoral care in the past at St. John's as well as in other parishes. They are a talented and committed group of people who do much to enhance the life at St. John's and who bring the love of Christ into the lives of others in our church family.

We meet monthly, the first Monday evening of each month at seven pm in the Fr. Battin Lounge during the school year. The meetings give us a chance to review what each person has done during the previous month and whom they have visited, as well as any concerns we may have. We also often discuss articles, which are handed out, intended to enhance our awareness of those who are ill or shut in.

The committee is involved with a number of different ministries of interest to the Pastoral Care group, each one chaired by a member of the committee. The ministries include:

**Baby blanket ministry:** Several people knit or crochet blankets for new babies, for baptisms, and for parents who have recently lost a baby. They also send baby blankets to the diocese through ECS.

**Blanket and prayer shawl ministry:** People at St. John's knit or crochet lap blankets or prayer shawls for those who are sick or are having a difficult time for various reasons.

**Card ministry:** Greeting cards and notes are sent to the sick, shut-ins, those who have lost a loved one, or at holiday times.

**Five Wishes** is usually presented in the Parish Hall between services about once a year. It suggests ways using a workbook for people to prepare and make decisions about end of life issues for themselves and should aid the surviving family in knowing what arrangements

the individual would prefer at the time of their death.

**Griefshare** is a series of meetings made available to those who are recovering from the loss of a loved one. It is a chance for people in a similar situation to meet together and find ways to work through some of their grief with others. It is open to those in our parish and other nearby churches.

**Lay Eucharistic visitors, or LEM:** Communion is brought to shut-ins as requested.

**Meal ministry:** This is used when families or individuals are in crisis of one sort or another including illness, death, birth of a baby, or in one case, after a house fire.

**Telephone ministry:** Members of St. John's are kept in touch with the church when they are ill or shut in.

**Transportation ministry:** This is an informal, as needed, service to those who would otherwise be unable to get to worship services at St. John's.

**Prayer chain:** In time of special need names are added to the prayer chain. This is usually for a short period of time.

**Pastoral visits:** We visit a number of people in the parish on a regular basis, particularly those who are elderly, ill or shut in.

**Monthly Eucharist at Maris Grove:** The retirement home close to St. John's hosts a monthly communion service held by Fr. John Sorensen and accompanied by several in the Pastoral Care group. It often attracts forty or more participants, a very popular event in the life of Maris Grove.

All those who are interested are welcome to join us at our next meeting, held in September. Or contact the office at St. John's or Amy Borer.

Faithfully yours,  
Amy Borer,  
Chair