

## Charge Conference Report 2020

### Cynthia Bement Congregational Care/Outreach

#### Half Time Position

The Lay Shepherd program that had been started in 2019, has truly been a beacon of light during this year. To have an outreach program already up and running when the boundaries of the pandemic were instituted was helpful, most especially to our single seniors. During the “sheltering in place” order I have still been able to train lay shepherds by dropping the manuals off at their home and then going over it together, either over the phone, or on zoom. This has been a year of learning to do things differently, and adapting, and some of the changes are working so well, we will adopt them permanently!

My gratitude to small group leaders, and to the Lay Shepherds for the many phone calls, emails, and zoom check in's with parishioners that you have made. Your love for the Lord is so evident as you extend God's love and care for others.

- **Before the Pandemic-**

- Coordinated and led once a month, the weekly “Time with young disciples” during the 10:30 am worship service.
- Staffed the prayer chapel weekly to allow parishioners the opportunity for someone to individually pray over them.
- Oversaw the Jr UMY praise team
- Led in person Lay Shepherd trainings with Naomi McDermott, who helped write our program.
- Visited parishioners in their homes, senior living housing and in the hospital.
- Organize, update, and write the weekly prayer list that is emailed and mailed to those without internet.
- Planned quarterly family/all church events.
- Call folks who visit.
- Help small groups attain curriculum material.
- Help recruit Cornerstone teachers.

- **During Pandemic-**

- Trained several more Lay Shepherds...socially distant of course!
- Assigned more parishioners to Lay Shepherds (140 people are checked on regularly).
- Continue updating & mailing weekly prayers...recruited more prayer warriors as well.
- Make many phone calls weekly, most especially to shut in's and those who are ill.
- Send caring/ get well/appreciation/ encouragement & sympathy cards weekly.
- Call on those who we have not seen in a long time.
- Deliver Upper Room Devotionals/ Cheryl the Office Manager mails many too.
- Upon my request, Chuck our sound technician copies our worship services onto DVD's and I deliver them to those without internet.
- Pray with folks over the phone prior to surgery and follow up after.
- Help Cheryl, the Office Manager, with the 2020 read list by making personal contacts.
- Provide encouragement and support to those who have lost loved ones through phone calls.
- Serve on the Emergency Team and the Security Team.
- Will be serving on the upcoming Twinlow Camp and Retreat Board.