

**Report of the Committee on Life Long Christian Formation  
To the 228<sup>th</sup> Annual Diocesan Convention**

The Committee on Life Long Christian Formation offers workshops, resources, and assistance to Christian educators throughout the Diocese.

On January 22, 2011, the Committee held “The Almost Christian: A Wake Up Call for the Church” at Trinity Cathedral with noted author and Princeton Theological Seminary professor Kenda Creasy Dean as our keynote presenter. This day, geared to findings as presented in Dr. Dean’s book *Almost Christian: What the Faith of our Teenagers is telling the American Church*, explored how to make church matter and took a good look at what kind of faith we are passing onto our youth. Each of the approximately 75 attendees received a complimentary copy of Kenda Dean’s book, courtesy of the Right Onward Visioning Committee.

From January to June 2011, the Committee launched our initial One Book campaign, encouraging each person, small group, parish or clericus to read Kenda Dean’s book *Almost Christian: What the Faith of our Teenagers is telling the American Church*, and enter into conversation about the thoughts and ideas presented in the book. A One Book blog, with both lay and clergy contributors including Bishop George Councell, was maintained to help facilitate conversation. An on-line study guide of questions was also available. In the Fall of 2011, the Committee assisted the Anti Racism Commission with an One Book campaign, with Joseph Barndt’s book *Becoming an Anti-Racist Church: Journeying toward Wholeness*. The Committee thanks The Reverend Greg Bezilla for his energy and dedication to One Book.

On March 26, the Committee sponsored a Day of Godly Play at St. Matthew’s Church in Pennington, led by The Reverend Emily Griffin and Ms. Dawn Stewart; and in May, three Regional Christian Educators gatherings were held to bring educators together to share resources and ideas; thank you to Ms. Betsy LaVela and Ms. Sue Legnani for their leadership. We also thank St. Luke’s Church in Gladstone, Holy Trinity Church in Tuckerton, and St. Stephen’s Church in Beverly for hosting these gatherings.

In 2011, the Committee maintained its membership in the Audio Visual Resource Library (AVRL), which is in the Diocese of Pennsylvania. Videos, DVD’s, and audio tapes could be borrowed via an order by phone or email free of charge to all Diocesan parishes. However, for 2012, the Committee has been informed that this subscription will not be available to us, and we are working to supplement our own Resource Center to offset the loss of this resource.

The Resource Center, now the Ministry Institute Resource Center, is on the third floor of Diocesan House, and open to all. The database can be accessed via a link at the Diocesan website and includes materials on not only education and curriculum but also liturgy, administration, and many other aspects of church ministry. The subscription that supplied us with a steady supply of new resources from Church Publishing came to an end in mid-2011. Church Publishing continues to supply the Ministry Institute Resource Center with updated copies of curriculum. We thank The Reverend Bill Breedlove, Sue Legnani, Canon Cynthia McFarland, Ms. Connie White and Ms. Sarah Paige for all their contributions to this ministry.

We are happy to assist any parish that is looking for help with their own Christian Education/Formation program, and hope to further that assistance in the future by utilizing and/or developing the technology and resources to hold webinars that would be interest to parish educators.

We would like to thank all members of the Committee who have served this year: The Reverends Gregory Bezilla, Lisa Caton, Sheelagh Clarke, Emily Griffin, Andrea Hayden, Justin Falciani, Joanna George, Lisa Hoffman, Sarah Kinney Gaventa, Susan Osborne-Mott, and the Reverend Dr. Gordon Graham; Susan Legnani, Eve Chamberlain, Donna Devlin, Nancy Miller, Deb Ellwood, Suzanne Johansson, and Betsy LaVela; The Reverend Lisa Mitchell, EFM Coordinator; The Reverend Canon Debra Clarke, Deacon, Staff Liaison.

Respectfully submitted,  
The Reverend Debbie Cook  
Chair