

**Report of the Committee on Life Long Christian Formation
To the 229th Annual Diocesan Convention**

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

On January 21, 2012, the Committee held “Make a Difference in the World: Adults Empowering Children and Youth” at Trinity Cathedral with keynote presenter Lisa Kimball, a noted Christian educator and Director of the Virginia Theological Seminary Center for Ministry of Teaching. We were blessed to work with the Millennium Development Goals Task Force, Jubilee Ministry and Diocesan Youth Ministry in presenting this event, and therefore were able to offer breakout sessions on Nets for Life (presenters: The Rev. Frank Crumbaugh and Ms. Joy Shigaki of Episcopal Relief and Development), Mission Trips (presenter: The Rev. Emily Griffin), Jubilee Ministry (presenter: Ms. Clara Gregory of Diocesan Jubilee Ministry) and Episcopal Relief and Development Curriculum and resources for Children and Youth (presenters: Sue Legnani and The Rev. Debbie Cook). This day was geared to how mission and outreach are formational for our children and youth (as well as the entire parish community), and how to integrate that into parish life. Despite the winter weather, over 40 persons attended; those who had registered but could not attend received copies of the presenters’ notes. Each attendee received a complimentary copy of our 2012 One Book: *God Has a Dream*, by Archbishop Desmond Tutu.

From January to June 2012, the Committee launched our One Book campaign, encouraging each person, small group, parish or clericus to read Desmond Tutu’s book *God Has a Dream* and enter into conversation about the thoughts and ideas presented in the book. A One Book blog, with both lay and clergy contributors was maintained to help facilitate conversation.

In the fall, the Committee sponsored a commuter Godly Play Core Training at St. Matthew’s Church in Pennington, led by The Reverend Emily Griffin and Ms. Dawn Stewart. A commuter training allows for attendees to spread what is normally a three day in-house training over three separate sessions; while registrants were encouraged to participate in all three sessions, it was possible for registrants to only participate in one or two sessions as well. Scholarships were made available by the Committee to Diocesan attendees to assist with the cost.

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. 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.

The Committee also funds the annual Diocesan licensing fee for Education for Ministry, a four-year education program sponsored by the School of Theology of the University of the South in Sewanee, Tennessee. There are currently four to five EFM groups regularly meeting in our Diocese.

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 this year by offering consulting services for those seeking to restructure or revitalize their Christian Education programs.

We would like to thank all members of the Committee who have served this year: The Reverends Gregory Bezilla, Lisa Caton, Lisa Hoffman, and the Reverend Dr. Gordon Graham; the Reverends Emily Griffin, Andrea Hayden, Sarah Kinney Gaventa and Joanna George, Deacon, who have served in 2012 but have stepped down due to retirement or accepting new calls outside of the Diocese; Susan Legnani, Eve Chamberlain, Donna Devlin, Nancy Miller, Cassandra Myers, Frank Marchese, Robert McKay, Deb Ellwood, Linda Nichols, and Suzanne Johansson; and The Reverend Lisa Mitchell, EFM Coordinator; The Reverend Canon Debra Clarke, Deacon, Staff Liaison.

Respectfully submitted,
The Reverend Debbie Cook, Chair