

3-27-08

senior minister's oral report to the board
the Rev. Jane Rzepka

I have been trying to think of the right adjective to describe the state of the CLF's programming, and I think, at long last, that the right adjective is "maturity."

During the past few years, we have initiated all kinds of programs. We write the grants, work really really hard to invent and establish the program, take a few steps forward and one or two back, and push them each into excellence.

So now you see an extensive Website. Take a look at the first page of your packet to see the map of where we end up. And the graphs in your packet that show round about 4000 visits to our home page a month.

We now have

- an established but exploding prison ministry.
- A stable of online courses and other interactive opportunities.
- A two-year track record of podcasts, where between 1000 and 2000 people in places like Macedonia and Taiwan download *Quest* every month, and hundreds more listen to individual sections.
- You see online Religious Education resources that professionals all over the country respect and depend upon—because you, the board, voted a few years back to double the RE salary to just over half time.
- A growing and respectable Church on Loan program for little congregations around the world.
- An extensive PR plan.
- A kids' magazine that we make a little money on.
- An internship program.
- A Young Adult ministry.
- A fund-raising program.
- Electronic record-keeping.

And analysis—so many numbers that on some days you wonder whether to analyze the work or actually *do* the work. You'll see, for example, the jewelry sales numbers in your packets.

Only a few years ago, I'd say in the space of Denny's tenure on the board, *none* of the things I just mentioned existed, at least not in a form that would be recognizable today. A year or two ago, they existed, but every day was a new...shall we say a new adventure. But now we kind of understand these vehicles we've created, and our trains mostly run on time. They have achieved a maturity.

You have helped move these initiatives from dream to experiment to successful aspects of the denominational landscape, with the help of Denny's leadership

and fearlessness, and the board's trusting support of our little staff down there in the basement, who work with that little budget you have in your packet. So troops, so far so good, and thank you.