

The Spiritual Caregiver

A Newsletter of the Ecumenical Institute for Pastoral Care

Volume 11, Issue 1
Spring, 2010

Interested in Enrollment?

Who: You or someone you know!

What: Join Ecumenical Institute for an informational meeting to hear an overview of the program and get questions answered about EI and enrollment.

When: Monday, May 10, 2010

Where: Two Locations

1. Lakeside Presbyterian Church
Fireside Room, Storm Lake
12 noon—1:30 PM
Coffee and sandwich provided
2. Floyd Valley Hospital, LeMars
LL Conference Room #2
6:00—7:30 PM
Coffee and cookies provided

Why: To enhance spiritual care giving skills.

Note: The target start date for this fall's classes is one day/wk. after Labor Day

Call Karen Borchers, Executive Director for more information at 712-368-2500.

CPE Alumni Reunion a Success!



Those Attending the reunion were: **Front left to right:** Kolleen Queener, Harvey Hanson, Karen Borchers, Sr. Cecelia Polt, Sharon Cates **Back left to right:** Dave Harmelink, Vic Karssen, Elaine Doorenbos, Dawn Freese, Alice Slorrer, Karol Gaffken, Vera Ludwig, Stephanie Prince



Training Faith Based Caregivers

CPE Alumni Reunion a Success

Dear Ecumenical Institute,

Thanks for the excellent reunion day. It was **great** seeing Fr. Gene and friends. The talks were very informative and **inspiring!** It was very wholesome for me and my friend.

With a Grateful Heart,
Sr. Cecelia Polt
Class of '93



KEYNOTE and Workshop Leader, Mary Eileen Andreasen, RN, MS, MA

Mary Eileen Andreasen is a nurse specializing in adult medicine and health care ministry, and is a Catholic mother of five. She has worked extensively in acute health care settings, health care education, and geriatrics and also as a chaplain in pastoral care before joining the staff of the Archdiocese of Omaha as the Coordinator for Aging and Disabilities Ministries from 2001 until 2008. Making the gradual shift from adult health care to adult faith formation, Mary Eileen is now the program coordinator for Immaculata Monastery and Spirituality Center in Norfolk, Nebraska, fulfilling a dream to work with rural parishes. She has a great love of Catholic rural life.

She received her nursing degree from St. Louis University and a Masters in Medical-Surgical Nursing from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. In addition, she has a Master of Arts in Ministry from Creighton University. She completed her Clinical Pastoral Education at Immanuel Hospital in Omaha.

She is married to her husband John, an Omaha native.



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Board Updates

Joan Ballantyne Recognized for 15 Years of Service

The Ecumenical Institute Board of Directors proudly recognized Joan Ballantyne for 15 years of service. She has provided effective leadership serving as president many years and also on various committees. She helped many in the community see the vision that Fr. Gene Sitzmann had to provide pastoral caregiving training to those in NW Iowa. She was a key leader in fundraising to help establish Ecumenical Institute as a free standing non-profit ministry. Other board members from Cherokee that have had the pleasure to serve with Joan are: Fr. Gene Sitzmann, Rev. Bob Alexander, Earl Pickens, Jean Miller, Tom Deiker, Tony Morris, Brad Dirks, Tom Heidenreich, Jay Loughlin, Wayne Rupp, Mike Hunter, Ivan Wiersema, Rich Cook, and Ben Shuberg.

Thank You!



Rich Cook presenting a plaque to Joan Ballantyne

Update from the President

Easter and spring time bring us reasons for hope and new life. The Ecumenical Institute also is in a time of great hope and expectation. The Board of Directors and our Executive Director, Karen Borchers are in the process of reviewing and interviewing two quality candidates for serving us as a supervisor. Please pray for wisdom and guidance. We will keep you posted as this develops.



Elaine Dorenbos, President

Check out EI's website:
www.ecumenicalinstitute.org

- ◆ Daily Devotions
- ◆ Faith based Caregiving Articles
- ◆ General Information about EI
- ◆ Plymouth County Senior Service Directory
- ◆ EI Newsletters
- ◆ Enrollment Information
- ◆ Opportunity to donate online
- ◆ Contact Information



Welcome to the team!

EI Welcomes Kathy Lansink as our administrative assistant. She is a part-time Deputy Clerk/Treasurer for the city of Sioux Rapids. She and her husband Duane have been married for 20 years and have four children ranging in age from 10 to 18. Kathy has taught CCD in her church for seven years. She enjoys reading, singing, cooking, and watching her kids grow. She joined our team because the timing was perfect, and she felt God was calling her to this opportunity.



Board of Directors

Bob Baschke
Rich Cook
Elaine Doorenbos
Mary Herbst
Vera Ludwig
Duane Queen
Ben Shuberg
Ivan Wiersema

Denise Green—CMHI Liaison

Emeritus Board Members

Robert C. Alexander (1993-2003)
Earl Pickens (1993-96)
✠Howard Marty (1993-97)
David Harmelink (1993-99)
Fred Davenport, Jr. (1993-2001)
Tom Deiker (1993-1997)
Joyce Bettin (1993-2001)

Fr. Gene Sitzmann, Founder & Emeritus Supervisor

Karen Borchers, Executive Director
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ACPE

Ecumenical Institute is accredited by:
The Association for Clinical Pastoral Education
1549 Clairmont Rd, #103
Decatur, GA 30033
404-320-1472 www.acpe.edu

What the Fall, 2010 Students Say About Ecumenical Institute's Certified Pastoral Education (CPE)

I learned that until I understand my own confusion, hurt and pain, I can't understand others. Now I can understand others to the level of my understanding of my own hurt. It felt good to be accepted where we are at and supported in our life journey.

Chris Mondak is an ISU Extension Dairy Specialist for 20 counties in Northwest Iowa. She leads focus groups for dairy farmers on educational programs and topics relating to their concerns.



I have new skills that help me to listen and communicate more effectively. It was good to learn new ideas, practice them, and then talk and reflect about how it worked in real life. Now I can continue to use this process to learn and grow.

Joyce Kizzier is Director of Faith Formation and pastoral minister at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Merville.

It was good to share with others in ministry and realize we often face similar challenges. There was a connection made that helped us to support each other in our individual ministries.

Catie Newman is a pastor at Hornick United Methodist Church and Salix Community United Methodist Church.



I appreciated being able to share "my story" in a safe and supportive environment. I have learned to listen in a different way so I can understand people's "real" story which I have found isn't always the first one shared.

Roger Sassman, member of First Church of Christ, Cherokee, has a ministry visiting area nursing homes.

I learned what it means to really be "present" and to listen. I shouldn't be thinking of what I will say next til I have heard them. It shows care to listen well. Also, it was good to be affirmed for what I do well. While in the class the others helped me see the positive things that I was already doing, but wasn't seeing myself.

Lynn Egesdal, a participant in Wartburg Seminary's TEEM Program (Theological Education for Emerging Ministries) of the ELCA and lay leader at Nain Lutheran in Newell. She is also the Education, Youth and Family Ministry Coordinator for the Western Iowa Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.



It was a unique educational experience as the class had input in choosing the weekly topics and personal goals for instruction.

Diana Pollard, certified lay minister, serves Methodist churches in Langdon and Spencer Zion.

Six students met at Cherokee Mental Health Institute for 100+ hours of classroom training and also had 300 hours of ministry experience from September through February.

Legacy Honor Roll

Helen Anderson
Mark & Karen Borchers
Fr. John Cain
Mike & Pam Cronin
Dr. Daryl & Elaine Doorenbos
Ruth George
Earl Pickens Family Trust
Tony & Carol Reuter
Fr. Gene Sitzmann
Larry & Linda Winkelbauer
†Ralph Harwig
†David Patterson
†Adrian Rupp

Thanks to these who have helped plan for the longevity of Ecumenical Institute. These fine individuals have given and their gift will continue after they are gone. If your name was inadvertently missed or you would like to be added, please contact Karen Borchers.

Thank You

Special thanks to the
Erlandson Foundation
for their continued support.

For Gifts of Stocks Or Securities

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Pastoral Education
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Attorney John Wibe
427 W. Main St.
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712-225-3143

If you are transferring stock or other securities, please contact Karen Borchers for account information.

Weathering the Storm

The struggling economy has affected each and every one of us in some way. It has forced us to examine our priorities. Many of us have discovered that the nurture of faith and family is what unites us in times of adversity and provides hope for the future.

Weathering the storm. We know that God is in control. Just as Jesus calmed the waters and the wind, God is with us during all the storms of our lives, providing, protecting, and offering hope.

During these times when dollars are hard to come by, your gifts are vitally important to Ecumenical Institute. We understand that you may be facing difficulties, and are truly appreciative of your willingness to contribute to EI's mission and training to help others in their time of need.

May God bless you for your faithful prayer and financial support. Together, relying on God's mercy and grace, we will continue to bring faith based caregiving to our communities!



BE COUNTED

Ever since I took a unit of CPE, I have been so grateful for the experience. It was life transforming for me and I could see it was for my classmates also! My husband, Mark, saw how it improved our faith, marriage and family life. I have been so blessed to have a job that gives me the opportunity to keep seeing this transformation for students every year. Since Mark and I have seen the benefits, we have also volunteered time and dollars to keep this program available for others. I thank you if you already are a supporter and if not, I challenge you to "*Be Counted*" as a supporter of EI.

It all adds up.

Karen Borchers, Alum and Executive Director

