

January 2011

***New Resources for Clergy and Congregations***

Vol 1, Issue 1

With Gratitude for  
a New Endeavor  
a New Year ...

a NEW  
COMPANY  
**EREMOS**  
CONSULTING  
GROUP



Dear Elizabeth,

It was this time a year ago when I took a deep breath and then launched a new company focused on **resourcing the organizational and leadership needs for congregations and clergy** of all stripes and flavors in the Rocky Mountain region.



**Rev. Elizabeth Denham Thompson**  
Clergy & Congregational Consultant

**Eremos is Greek for wilderness**, something that is very familiar to us in the Rocky Mountain area! We love the wilderness ... and we fear it. The wilderness is also a powerful spiritual image. Moses and the Israelites wandered in the wilderness for years, struggling with "getting Egypt out of the people" so they would be able and willing to move into the promised land. Jesus retreated into the wilderness for discernment and connection with God, and yet was tempted while praying there. Our desert fathers and mothers removed themselves into the wilderness so they could encounter God in significant ways and have clarity of vision when dealing with the world.

**This first year for Eremos Consulting** has provided opportunities for discernment, guidance, nourishment, and support for congregational leaders who have been

**In This Issue**

- Clergy Mini-Sabbaticals Offered
- Congregational Care Ministry Training

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exploring the wilderness areas in their lives and that of their congregations. And it has also been a year where I, too, have been exploring the wilderness landscape of this new endeavor. At times I have wandered off the trail, exploring new vistas and gaining insights but also reminding me to pay attention to what is going on within and around me.

**I thank you for your trust in me** and look forward to what this next year brings. In this newsletter I have noted some upcoming events where I am working collaboratively with other professionals to offer resources for clergy and for lay leaders. Some events are for personal renewal and some are for congregational renewal. In future newsletters I will offer personal reflections as well as information about ideas and trends in the world of congregational development.

**I am excited** about what lies ahead and hope that you will join me in the wilderness wanderings and wonderings in the year to come.

Shalom,  
Elizabeth

Lenten Ecumenical Mini-Sabbatical Day for Clergy

## **Wonderings and Wanderings Mini-Sabbatical Days for Clergy**

### **Raising Dry Bones**

*"Our bones are dried up, and  
our hope is lost..."*

**Strategic plans,  
stewardship, sermons...  
Buildings and bulletins  
and  
bedside visitation...**

**Meetings, meetings, meetings.....  
Pesky parishioners.....**

*Its Lent. You are urging your congregation toward  
a richer, fuller spiritual life.  
Yet you find little time to nourish  
your own.*



**JOIN Facilitators Elizabeth & Jane  
Anne**



Rev. Jane  
Anne Ferguson

**for a  
mini-sabbatical  
day for  
clergy.....**



Rev. Elizabeth  
D. Thompson

**Thursday, March 24, 2011**

**9am to 4pm**

**Loretto Spirituality Center**

**Lakewood, CO**

**\$49 per person, including lunch**

*(optional individual overnight retreat possible for additional charge, depending on Loretto Center availability)*

**or Thursday, April 7, 2011**

**9am to 4pm**

**Plymouth UCC Church**

**Fort Collins, CO**

**\$49 per person, including lunch**

***"I will put my spirit within  
you and you shall live!"***

**[Click here for more  
information and full  
brochure](#)**

Reservations one week in advance by contacting Elizabeth  
at 303-902-7805  
or email [ethompson@eremosconsulting.com](mailto:ethompson@eremosconsulting.com)

**Web of Care Congregational Care Ministry Training - Coming MARCH 17, 18, & 19, 2011**



**Looking for a congregational care ministry that will ...**

- \* train lay care providers consistently?
- \* for a reasonable allocation of time and resources?
- \* honor theologically progressive understandings?
- \* integrate strong practical skills in the training?
- \* AND provide flexibility to meet each church's needs?

**[Web of Care was developed to respond to these needs!](#)**

Developed by two ministers who are also counselors and congregational consultants, *Web of Care* provides lay care training to equip and expand the congregational care ministry. It is appropriate for new program starts or to provide additional care skills for current lay caregivers. There are two events which can be taken separately or together.



Rev. Dr.  
Jason C.  
Whitehead

Rev.  
Elizabeth  
Thompson

## Enhancing Congregational Care Programs for Effectiveness

**Thursday, March 17th**

*1pm to 8:30pm*

*hosted by University Park UMC, Denver*

*\$75 per person (or flat rate of \$200 for groups of 3 or more)*

## Congregational Lay Care Training: Basic Hands on Training

**Friday & Saturday - March 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup>, 2011**

*8:30 to 6:30pm both days*

*hosted by University Park UMC, Denver*

*\$150 per person - Cost includes a 180 page training manual (or \$400 flat rate for groups of 3 or more PLUS \$25 per person for manuals.)\**



**Click here for registration information and flyer**

**RSVP by March 1, 2011 to reserve your spot!**  
Contact Elizabeth at 303-902-7805 or email [ethompson@eremosconsulting.com](mailto:ethompson@eremosconsulting.com)



Leading a congregation doesn't have to be lonely! Start your journey of rest and renewal today. You'll be glad you did.

Rev. Elizabeth Denham Thompson  
Eremos Consulting Group

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