

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION: Parish Ed

Perspective

By Solveig Hjermstad

Vice chair, Board of Publications and Parish Education

When I joined the Board of Publications and Parish Education four years ago, I thought I had a reasonably good understanding of its mission and ministry. After the first board meeting my perspective was altered. I felt a bit like Roald Dahl's character in *Charlie and the Great Glass Elevator*. "We must hurry!" said Mr. Wonka. "We have so much time and so little to do! No! Wait! Strike that! Reverse it!"

We as a board are constantly looking for ways to help our director, Marian Christopherson, and our administrative assistant, Diane Brubakken, have more time to complete publishing projects. Scott Olson, our part time customer account specialist, manages orders, shipments, and is acquiring more and more assigned tasks.

"Each day we are trying to balance two distinctive areas of responsibility in our department," said Brubakken. "One is maintaining our day-to-day operations of our in-house and online bookstore, while the other focuses on publishing curriculum and other materials."

The recently published two-year confirmation curriculum has met a huge need in our AFLC congregations and it's generating lots of great feedback. Last August our director led several webinars defining our AFLC curriculum and its benefits. Currently two congregations are testing a New Testament adult Bible study in preparation for online publication. Teacher manuals for *The Lord's Prayer* elementary curriculum are nearing completion. Our revision of *The Ten Commandments* Sunday school series is in its final quarter. The other hot project is the final formatting of our newest AFLC Heritage Series book containing selected writings of Dr. Francis Monseth.

It's no wonder that when Brubakken was asked what her dream day would look like, she paused then smiled and said, "When I can complete the things on my plate for that day."

Though our task seems at times impossible, our hope rests in our Lord. We thank God for the faithful support of the WMF throughout the years. Thank you for your continued prayers and financial support.

The AFLC Board of Publications and Parish Education met last November at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Fargo, ND.



Pictured L. to R.: Solveig Hjermstad, Rev. Ryan Patenaude, Director Marian Christopherson, Maren Sletten, Suzanne Tietjen, and Chairman Rev. Dennis Norby.