

## **Open and Affirming Committee June 2008 Church Mouse**

The lending library has become a major resource for all of our members. We particularly encourage those who have missed any of our formal programs to check it out. It is located in the bookcase outside the church office. Recently added are DVDs of the April 6 "What is ONA?" program. The April 27 program DVD was under development at press time, and it will also be available in the library.

To date, we have begun to address two of the four Open and Affirming themes:

- 1) ONA: a definition of the issue
- 2) What does the Bible have to say about this issue?

Over the next two months, we will begin to introduce the third theme: **What is it like to be gay? How does it feel to be the object of discrimination? Personal stories from O and A churches and people we love.** We will do so in June and July via small group discussions of video presentations. Our schedule is as follows:

Sunday, June 8th "Open and Affirming - A Journey of Faith" After Coffee Hour  
Tuesday, June 17th "For the Bible Tells Me So" - 7 p.m.  
Thursday, June 19th "Open and Affirming - A Journey of Faith" - 7 p.m.  
Sunday, June 22nd "For the Bible Tells Me So" - After Coffee Hour  
Sunday, July 13th "Open and Affirming - A Journey of Faith" After Coffee Hour  
Tuesday, July 22nd "For the Bible Tells Me So" - 7 p.m.  
Thursday, July 24th "Open and Affirming - A Journey of Faith" - 7 p.m.  
Sunday, July 27th "For the Bible Tells Me So" - After Coffee Hour

The two videos that will be featured have been previewed by members of our committee and we believe that you will find them to be thought-provoking.

### **For the Bible Tells Me So**

Through the experiences of five very normal, Christian, American families - including those of former House Majority Leader Richard Gephardt and Episcopal Bishop Gene Robinson - we discover how people of faith handle the realization of having a gay child or family member. Offering healing, clarity and understanding to anyone caught between scripture and sexual identity, this landmark film boldly takes on a loaded topic and examines it both intellectually and emotionally.

Length: 98 minutes. Appropriate Age: Sr. High, Adult

### **Open and Affirming - A Journey of Faith**

Produced as a resource for congregations at the beginning point of considering whether or not to enter an Open and Affirming educational process. It is a valuable resource to churches for other reasons as well. ONA congregations will find the video helpful in further clarifying the significance of their actions. Congregations wishing to learn more

about the experience of lesbian and gay Christians will find the video a good, non-threatening introduction to the topic.

Length: 60 min. Appropriate Age: Young Adult, Sr. High, Adult

Please join us for one or more of these sessions as we explore this important issue in a more informal setting.

Open and Affirming (ONA) Committee

Michael Bower

Laurel Cole

Mary Dean

Tim Dostie

Gail Hall (chairperson)

Stephanie Heneghan

Bill Hoffman

Katie Hoffman-Fulda

Pat Howland

Bob Inderbitzen

Ron Robbins

Tom Rolfe

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