

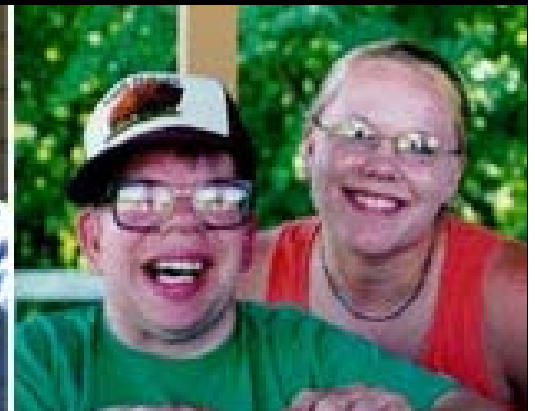
Making Room at the Table

People With
Disabilities in the
Congregation



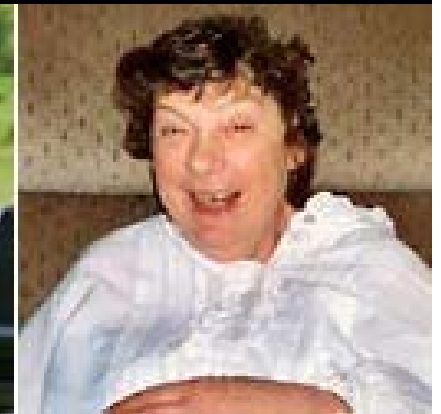
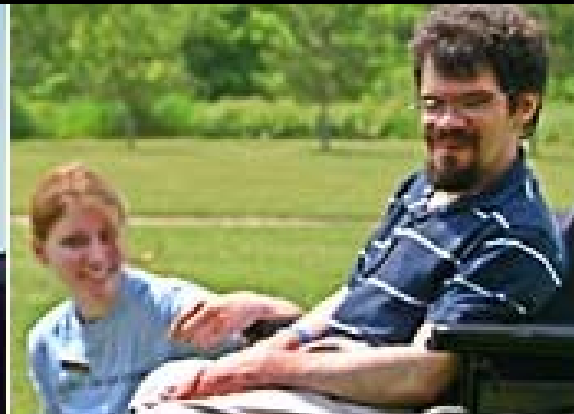
Where Did We Come From?

- On the Church Side...
- On the Professional Side...



Our Common Spiritual Lives

- Who goes to church?
- Who doesn't... and why not??



Accessibility

- How is it defined?
- Physical is the easy part
- Social accessibility (welcoming, friendships)
- Educational accessibility
- Worship accessibility
- Transportation



Gifts to Share

- **Sharing in Service to Others**





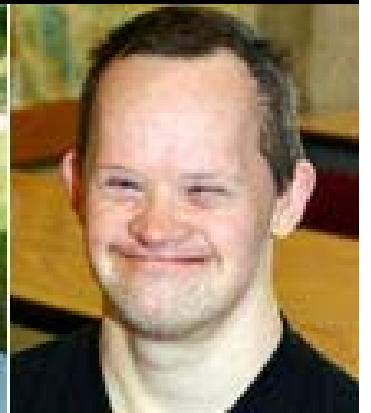
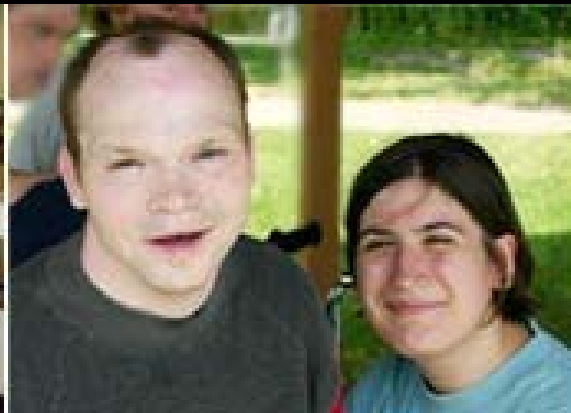


Bethesda

Living
Well!

Gifts to Share

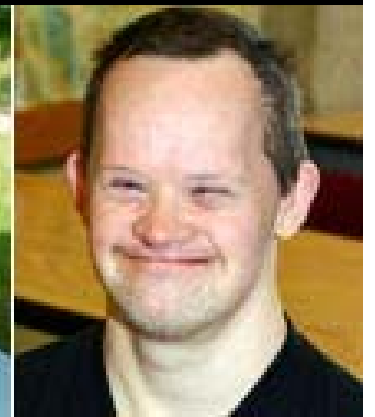
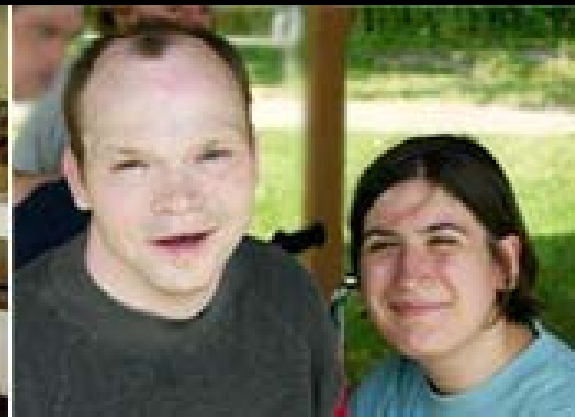
- **Sharing in Service to Others**
- **Sharing Important Perspectives**





Gifts to Share

- **Sharing in Service to Others**
- **Sharing Important Perspectives**



The image features a green architectural drawing board with white lines and text. A silver ruler is placed vertically on the left side, and a black L-shaped ruler is at the bottom. In the bottom right corner, there are drafting tools including a compass and a red pencil. The text 'Building a Developmental Disability Ministry' is centered on a white grid background.

Building a Developmental Disability Ministry

NEEDS, ATTITUDES AND GOALS

NEEDS, ATTITUDES AND GOALS

- Are people with special learning needs uninvolved in congregational life?
- Is there a need to identify people to be served?

NEEDS, ATTITUDES AND GOALS

- **How is Christian education viewed in general?**
- **Are there preconceived notions of the structure of a special ministry program?**
- **What is the connection, if any, among general Christian education, confirmation instruction and receiving Holy Communion?**

NEEDS, ATTITUDES AND GOALS

- **Is the program a means to an end or an on-going commitment?**
- **Will the program serve one congregation or will it be a community outreach (cooperative) program?**

WHAT ARE THE ROLES?

- **Pastor**
- **Parent**
- **Teacher**
- **Advocate**
- **Program Participant**

OPTIONS FOR STRUCTURE

- **Full Inclusion (Mainstream)**
- **Individual/Small group**
- **Combined classes**

GETTING STARTED

- 1. Pray**
- 2. Start simple/aim high**
- 3. Integrate into other church activities**
- 4. Expect “growing pains”**
- 5. Pray some more**

