



Presbyterian
Older Adult
Ministries



NETWORK

2011 Older Adult Ministries
Planning Guide
Connecting the Generations

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Dear Friend,

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) designates the first week in May as “Older Adult Week”. At this time we seek to broaden opportunities for churches to acknowledge their older adult members. This is the moment to make a special effort to let our elders know they are cared for, loved, and never forgotten.

The “baby boomer” generation is quickly becoming the largest older adult population in world history. Their importance to Presbyterian congregations will increase with each passing year. That is why we should focus on expanding horizons for older adults. The success of our work will have a huge impact on the life of our churches and the Presbyterian Church as a whole entity.

United Adult Ministries is pleased to sponsor the enclosed 2011 Older Adult Week Planning Guide, which was prepared in partnership with the Presbyterian Older Adult Ministries Network (POAMN). I wish to commend Ginny Nyhuis for her great work in preparing this guide.

We hope you find this guide useful in developing your plans for “Older Adult Week”. The theme for the 2011 guide is centered around “Intergenerational Ministries”. You could have a week of activities featuring interaction between youth and older adults, such as computer “geeks” teaching seniors how to surf the web! Or talks on how grandparents are raising grandchildren, while some volunteer as mentors to disadvantaged youngsters. What about elementary students reading stories to members of a senior center? You get the picture! However you decide to celebrate, we hope this guide will be of service to you.

At United Adult Ministries, our mission has always been to offer older adults hope, through expanding opportunities and practical services, to live confidently in today’s world. As we celebrate a decade of progress in this new millennium, we are very excited that more of God’s children can live life to its fullest. Thank you for your participation in ministry making this possible.

May God continue to bless your ministry and service to God and to Older Adults.

Sincerely,
Rev. Douglas Kurtz
President
United Adult Ministries

Douglas Kurtz
dkurtz@uam.org



Celebrate Older Adult Sunday May 1, 2011

Each year the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) sets aside the first Sunday in May to acknowledge older adults as one of the gifts with which God has blessed us. Older adults represent the gifts of wisdom gained through living a life in faith, hope through hard times lived with perseverance, and generosity in loving and stewardship. Following are some ideas for incorporating the celebration of older adults into a Sunday morning worship service.

Who will be honored on Older Adult Sunday? Let your congregation decide. In some congregations, older adults are anyone over 50 while in other congregations anyone younger than 75 is still in the youth group! Also, ask your older adults if there is a name they prefer: “older adults”, “seniors”, “treasures”, or “wise ones”.

Advance Preparations: Invite a group of older adults to design a symbol of their gifts of wisdom, perseverance, and generosity. On Older Adult Sunday, use the symbol on bulletins or place the symbol in a prominent place in the sanctuary.

Check the sound system in your sanctuary. Are there “dead spots” where it is difficult to hear? If so, guide persons with hearing impairments to other seats. Similarly, check the lighting to see that persons with vision impairments can see. Print bulletins with a large font and leave plenty of blank space so it is easy to read. Check the temperature of the sanctuary and note drafty locations that older persons may want to avoid.

Transportation: Well in advance of May 1st, make a list of those who used to be active in the congregation but no longer attend because of a move or an inability to get to church. Get names and addresses from members and friends. Then invite these folks to worship with you on Older Adult Sunday.

Sadly, when we are no longer able to drive, attending worship becomes nearly impossible. On Older Adult Sunday, form carpools to help elderly members attend worship. Many nursing home residents appreciate an opportunity to worship at their home church but are unable to drive. Be sure to have a ramp for wheel chairs and walkers.

Seating: On Older Adult Sunday have a special team to welcome older members and usher them to their seats. You could reserve the first several rows of pews for the older members of your congregation. Consider giving each elder a lapel pin, bookmark, flower, or medallion to recognize the esteem of the congregation.



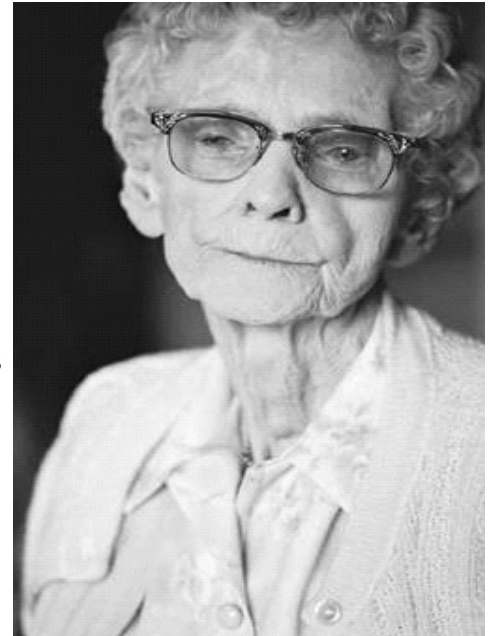


Hymns: Use the old standards this Sunday, such as *Amazing Grace*, *How Great Thou Art*, and *What a Friend We Have in Jesus*. Older adults know these hymns by heart so that even those with vision and hearing impairments will be able to join in singing.

Scripture: Many in your congregation may be familiar with the NRSV or the NIV Bible translation, but older adults grew up on the King James Version of the Bible. Honor older adults by reading the texts of the day from the King James Version. Many with dementia will recite the Twenty-Third Psalm with you if you use the King James Version.

Sermon: The lectionary texts for May 1, 2011 are Acts 2:14a, 22-32; Psalm 16; 1 Peter 1:3-9; and John 20:19-31. As you prepare your sermon, consider the lives of the older persons being honored. How do these texts give hope to persons in the final quarter of life?

Prayers of the People: On this day, give thanks for the lives of older adults and the gifts they bring to the congregation. You may also offer prayers for those who retired from work, became grandparents and great-grandparents, were widowed, or had other family changes. Recognize the courage it takes to stop driving, to accept assistance, to give up a home, and to depend on family and friends. Consider naming those who have died during the past year. Pray also for strength and courage for those who provide care for older persons. If your congregation has programs or services for the elderly, include these in your prayers.



After Worship: The church is the focal point of the social lives of many of the persons you honor on Older Adult Sunday, so it makes sense to host a potluck after worship. You may arrange tables so older persons have a place of honor among family and friends rather than separated at an honoree's table. Have parishioners alerted to fill in around elders who have few family or friends present.

Need an activity at the potluck? Consider that older members are a repository of historical information about your congregation. You may want to use Older Adult Sunday to gather and record some of that information for your congregation. Assign a younger member to record the remembered stories of each older person. Or use a long sheet of paper to make a time line for the history of your congregation. Invite older persons to place baptisms, marriages, and deaths on the time line.



Developing and Planning an Ongoing 50+ and Senior Adult Ministry In Your Congregation

by Michele Shultz Hendrix

What does it mean to age successfully? Research and evidence support the conclusion that our response to life events is usually more important to our sense of well-being than the events themselves. Though each of us have limited control over the challenges that come our way, we can maintain and even improve our quality of life by the choices we make and the spirit we bring to those choices. There is no denying the difficult issues that often come with aging. But as one looks ahead into the future, knowledge is power!

And remember: there is good news about aging. It is too easy to focus just on the challenges of growing older. The good news about aging is that maturity brings certain gifts. These gifts are effective tools - in fact, I would argue that they are the best tools you can have - to approach the work of aging well in life and developing a senior ministry program. As you face the concerns of your own aging, or the aging of someone you love, it is good to recognize these gifts in yourself and your congregation and put them to work for you.

The gifts are:

- Older people know themselves and their values. More than younger people, seniors are often clear about what is important to them.
- Older people have a wealth of life and work experience to draw on and share. Usually the lessons of a long life teach patience, problem solving, and working cooperatively with others.
- Finally, older people often possess a reflective candor and honesty. They are less likely than younger people to shy away from telling or facing the truth.

At a time in life and in our congregations when one has no choice but to make adjustments and respond to both internal and external changes, these qualities and life lessons become important tools for decision-making. Older adults and their gifts will be your best helpers as you:

- **Evaluate** honestly where you are in your life and in your congregation and what options are open to you.
- **Plan** carefully, and in advance of events, if possible, what is to happen.
- **Act** positively to improve and sustain your quality of life and the quality of ministry in your congregations.





So, you have the gifts in your life and congregations to do the work you have to do; you have the simple formula above and in the following pages to help you structure how you're going to do that work. This is a starting place for you and your congregation.

Now, if you are willing to use the special gifts of your maturity and the maturity in your congregations, along with the information and resources available to you, evaluate, plan, and take action, then you have the best possible chance to age well and begin to develop a thriving 50+ Adult Ministry program in your congregation!

Five Things To Do Before Starting a 50+ Adult Ministry

1. **Pray.** Seek God's will in prayer, preferably in alliance with others. Pray weekly for wisdom in the development of the ministry. All too often, prayer, which should be the first and most effective step in any undertaking, is the thing we try only as a desperate last resort.
2. **Count the cost.** Building a 50+ Adult Ministry will cost you and your congregation time, money, and probably emotional stress. Are you willing to pay the price?

Most church program administration is principally concerned with acquiring, organizing, and planning for the coordinated use of resources - finances, personnel, facilities, equipment, and materials. One of the greatest challenges here is keeping the human element in focus; trying to integrate and direct a group of individual efforts, resources and facilities toward a common goal without constantly considering each person's perspective is a quick path to discord and disaster. If a program is to achieve its goals and objectives with optimum output-for-input, program leaders must never forget to be diligent in interpersonal communications, motivation, instruction, and performance evaluation. Furthermore they must carefully define the work to be accomplished, establishing priorities and seeing that combined efforts mesh smoothly, as well as providing all necessary resources. Finally, congregations desiring to develop programs for the community beyond their own membership - especially small congregations, whose members may not have all the knowledge and skills to plan, develop and implement such a program - must be able to identify and secure the necessary outside expertise and partnerships.

3. **Develop Your Mission Statement.** We need to know where we are going if we are to determine the best way to get there.

Any basic mission statement should address the needs of seniors in connection with their relationship to Christ, as well as the basic needs for love, acceptance, security, varied and meaningful learning experiences; ambitious but realistic plans; and consistent quality time with others. Anyone active in building a senior ministry must genuinely, from the beginning, care for the people to be served. If you

are re-evaluating an existing ministry, consider how strongly it focuses on caring. Take time to reflect on “whose you are” and what you want to accomplish. Plan your work and work your plan - and be very careful not to start majoring on minors. (Some promising ministries have broken up before they started because of arguments over whether the formal definition of primary goals should be called a mission statement, vision statement, or statement of purpose!)

4. **Set goals.** Brainstorm the necessary goals and objectives to fulfill your mission statement. These will be unique to your situation but must always be achievable, measurable, understandable, specific, and realistic. Plan a system to keep track of progress toward goals.

Ministry goal-setting is too important to be left to one person; to ensure consensus, teamwork, and focus, schedule a planning day when everyone has the opportunity to contribute input. Divide goals into categories (spiritual, physical, emotional, social, numerical) and look for a balance between the categories; also, set long term as well as short term goals. Everyone should have the opportunity to give input. It is important that there be consensus building, teamwork, and focus. Everyone should leave the planning day with a clear understanding of the goals that have been set.

5. **Dream big, but live in reality.** Anyone genuinely called to a ministry will have experiences of accomplishing the seemingly impossible - and will also face temptations to run ahead with “big ideas” without asking God’s opinion. To keep *your* dreams in line with *God’s* dreams, go back regularly to Step 1 on this list - pray about *everything!*

Remember that seniors - like everyone else - want love, acceptance, affirmation, fulfillment, encouragement, and practical help for daily life.

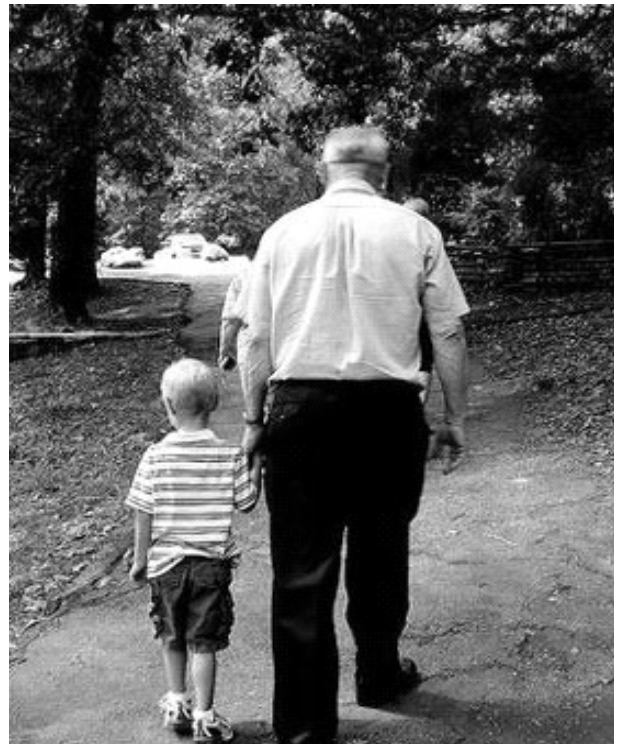
Seven “Musts” For Involving Seniors in the Church

1. Cultivate a fellowship-oriented and caring congregation. An active small-group program often helps here: to implement such a program, choose one specific individual to be responsible for overseeing it; define clearly whom you want to reach; set up a plan; write a simple, clear statement of purpose; and communicate to the congregation exactly what you are offering
2. Involve everyone in someway; many hands lighten the load. Never refuse or relegate to the “later file” an offer of assistance; find a way to incorporate it immediately. Teach your congregation to engage their time, talents, gifts and passions on the principal of “I am only one, but I am one; I cannot do everything; but I can do something. What I can do, I ought to do, and what I ought to do, by God’s grace I will do.” (Attributed to Edward Everett Hale)





3. Lead by example. The standards, commitment, and quality of leadership will never rise above the standards, commitment, and quality of the person at the top. You are the pacesetter; your example is crucial: your standards, commitment, and quality of leadership are powerful examples to those in your ministry. Strong leaders lead with clear thinking, not emotions. They follow through on details. Most of all strong leaders are people of prayer.
4. Know the specific needs of senior adults. Senior adults are spiritually hungry and need to be fed, through groups that provides social fellowship and meets spiritual needs.
5. Evaluate growth by spiritual and emotional health, not just numbers or finances. Making the numbers game the focus of your ministry will quickly ruin your focus. Yes, it is important to be aware of numerical growth, but only so far as the numbers represent members and their needs. Numbers must always be the byproduct, never the goal.
6. Encourage senior adults to remain active in ministry; there should be no compulsory retirement in the Body of Christ. Senior adults with their wealth of experience and more flexible schedules can actually be more effective in ministry than their younger counterparts. Even those with serious disability can successfully serve in home-based ministries such as telecare and prayer support.
7. Laugh with those who laugh, cry with those who cry. Beware of telling anyone, “You shouldn’t feel that way”, know when to laugh, when to be silent, and when to weep. Do encourage humor and laughter; they are wonderful medicine for discouraged hearts, medicine that brings a lighter outlook, a greater sense of possibility, and increased courage to face life. And without any unpleasant side effects!



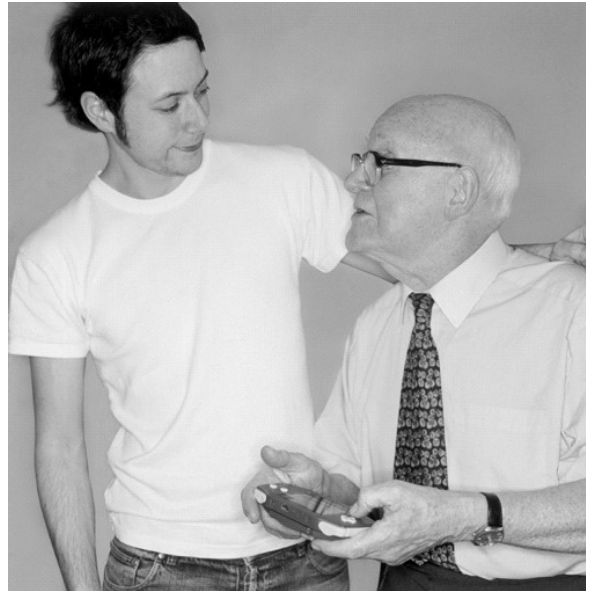


Intergenerational Program Ideas

submitted by Rev. Désirée M. Youngblood

Computer Classes Taught by Youth - Many older adults do not know how to use computers, even though doing so is second nature to most of today's youth. Youth with patience and empathy could be encouraged to teach basic computer skills to older adults in the congregation. Learning how to use e-mail and the Internet could be very beneficial to older adults because it would help them keep in touch with their families. They could also use the Internet to learn about topics that interest them, even if they are homebound.

Guest Speaker to Youth and Children (life stories) - The older adults have fascinating life stories. They could be invited to share these stories with the youth.
Biblical References: Deut 32:7, Lev 19:32



Beautiful Baby Contest - Have the older adults provide a picture of themselves when they were babies and place them on a bulletin board in the church. The entire congregation would vote on who was the most beautiful baby. An award would be given during a worship service, if the older adult were not homebound or could be assisted in getting to the service. Churches that have tried this program say that the youth and children are most interested in the pictures. The contest helps remind them that we were all babies once and makes the older adults seem more human. Another option would be to invite people attempt to match baby pictures with current pictures.
Biblical References: Deut 32:7

All About Me Display Case - Each week or month or whatever time period is desired, a different older adult would put up a display in the church about his or her life. The youth and the children find the displays interesting. They might be shocked to find out that "Old Man Smith" was an avid tennis player. They build new respect and connections with the older adults through these glimpses into people's lives.
Biblical References: Deut 32:7, Lev 19:32

Youth Adopt a Nursing Home - Older adults love to visit with youth. In fact, most still feel like youth themselves, but their bodies have given out on them. Seeing young people take an interest in them often brightens their days. The youth group could adopt a nursing home to visit on a regular basis.
Biblical References: Lev 19:32, Deut 32:7



Youth and Children Visit Shut-Ins - The homebound typically love to have visitors. Hearing all about what is going on in the world from the young members of their church often gives older adults a new perspective that is refreshing and welcome. The children and youth could visit in pairs or individually. This program would encourage them to learn to communicate well with the elderly.

Biblical References: Lev 19:32, Deut 32:7

Pew Buddies - Many older adults are widowed or divorced and attend church services alone. Having a buddy from church to sit with every Sunday would be nice. Also, having a pew buddy could help young families to watch their children while in church. Pew Buddies could be a program for all ages.

Latchkey Kids Program - As dual income families become more and more common, many children and youth return to empty homes after school. An after-school program at the church would benefit both youth and older adults. Many older adults have free time after school because their children are grown and have left home. They would be excellent choices for meeting with students after school, providing a place for the students to work on their homework, to have conversations, or to play games.

Biblical References: Lev 19:32, Deut 32:7

Scavenger Hunt for Youth - The youth could have a church-wide scavenger hunt. For instance, they might have to find the person who did "such and such" and then get their signature to prove that they talked with the person. The youth would get to know something about the members in the church by the end of the scavenger hunt.

Biblical References: Deut 32:7, Lev 19:32

After-School Tutoring Program - Like the latchkey kids program, the after-school tutoring program would provide an alternative to returning to an empty house after school. Many older adults are highly educated, and some were school teachers. Older adults are well qualified to help students in any subject.

Biblical References: Deut 32:7, Lev 19:32

Shared Housing - Many churches are located in college cities, where many students need help finding a decent home. These same churches also have many older adults with large empty houses. In exchange for housing, the students would provide transportation, do the grocery shopping, and provide companionship. The church would help match the older adults and the students. More information is available at www.nationalsharedhousing.org



Connecting the Generations by Faith:

Older Adult Ministries Week Model Worship Service

by Rev. Désirée M. Youngblood

The Gathering of God's People

The Prelude

Call to Worship: (From Joel 2:27-28)

Leader: We shall know that God is in the midst of his people and that there is no other God.

People: And God's people shall never again be put to shame.

Leader: Then afterward God will pour out his spirit on all flesh;

People: our sons and our daughters shall prophesy,

Leader: our old men shall dream dreams, and our young men shall see visions.

All: Praise the Lord! Let us worship God together.



Opening Prayer:

Almighty God, all creation bears witness to your glory. Let all the generations call on your name and praise you, for you alone remain faithful throughout our lives. You keep all your promises; you never abandon us. Your grace washes over us like an overflowing fountain. By faith we come to know your free gift of grace as you call each of us by name. By faith we gather here today to praise you and adore you. By faith we come to hear your Word proclaimed. Fill us with your Spirit, that your Word will touch our hearts and guide our actions. With faith and confidence we pray in the power of the Holy Spirit through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hymn of Praise: #275 Blue Presbyterian Hymnal, "God of Our Life"

The Confession of Sin and Assurance of Pardon

Call to Confession:

All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. Yet God does not condemn us as we deserve, but offers us grace. By faith we come to know God's grace. By faith we confess our sins to God, knowing that we can receive forgiveness through Jesus Christ. Let us confess our sins before God and one another.

**Confession of Sins:*

God of grace, we come before you today by faith. We confess that we have not been your faithful children. We receive your love so easily, yet we find sharing it to be much more difficult. Your love



is inclusive, yet we are selective in sharing your love. We fail to push outside our comfort zones to include those who are different. We are uncomfortable spending time with people who are not just like us - the same age, the same race, the same gender. We let our discomfort keep us from making friends with and being there for people who are not just like us. God of mercy, forgive our short sightedness. Help us to love all of your children and to see you in all whom we encounter. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon:

Hear the good news! God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. We have been saved by grace through faith in Jesus Christ. By faith, we know that in the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

The Ministry of the Word

First Lesson: Psalm 146

Second Lesson: Ephesians 2:1-10

Hymn: #279 Blue Presbyterian Hymnal, “Lord of Our Growing Years”

Third Lesson: Hebrews 11:1-34

Sermon: “Connecting the Generations by Faith”

Exegete the passage. Then talk about the traits of each generation in today’s church. (A good book to help understand the generations is *One Church, Four Generations* by Gary L. McIntosh.) Tie the passage together with the generations. Explain that the generations in the church have an opportunity to connect through each others’ missions and ministries. What are some of the ways that each generation is putting its faith into action? How could other generations support those missions and ministries?

For example:

- Generation Z, which is our young children, might be willing to put on skits for the church and bring them to local nursing homes, but they need leaders from other generations to help them.
- The Millennials in the church have a heart for the homeless. They have begun serving at the local soup kitchen, and they invite other generations to come and join them.
- The Gen Xers are wanting to start a praise and worship service, and they need help in the following areas to get them started....
- The Baby Boomers are concerned about our sister church in Zambia, and they need volunteers to fulfill the following needs....
- The Silent Generation is concerned with the recent Hmong refugees from Laos that have settled in our area. They have been in touch with many of the newcomers and have identified the following needs....



- The GI Generation is concerned with the shortage of housing for the needy in our area. They are putting together a Habitat for Humanity building, and they need volunteers to help in the following areas....

The point is to connect the generations by sharing in the visions that each generation has been given by faith and joining in the ministries that result from them.

To adapt this message for a nursing home, find out what the generations in the local churches are trying to do and how the residents can help. Or, reverse the idea by finding out the concerns of the residents. Then see how younger generations in the local churches can help.

The Response to the Word

Prayers of the People:

Creator God, we thank you for bringing so many joys to each of our lives. We thank you for all of the generations that you have brought together in this covenant community. We praise you for the works of this church and the passion of the generations to spread your grace to all.

We lift up the missions and ministries of this church. (List the missions and ministries). We pray that you give each of us discernment for where you are calling us to serve you. Help us to serve you and all your children in a way that brings our generations together as we bring your light into the world.

There are so many needs in this world. We especially lift up to you the following needs. For the children who are hungry, bring them food. For the youth who are homeless, bring them shelter. For the young adults who are trying to make ends meet, bring them work. For the depressed, bring them joy. For the ill, bring them healing. For the homebound, bring them company. You are the Great Provider, and by faith we put our trust in you. Amen.

Call to Offering:

Presenting an offering to God is always an act of faith. For some, it might require only a small amount of faith. For others, it requires much more. By faith we trust in God to provide for our needs. By faith we give back to God a portion of what God has provided for us.

Prayer of Thanksgiving:

By faith, Lord, we bring these meager offerings to you. Use us and our resources to bring your light into the world. Bless us in our giving that we might grow in faith, trusting more and more that you will provide for our needs. Expand our vision that we might see across the generations how our offerings can help further your kingdom. Amen.

Hymn of Response: #343 Blue Presbyterian Hymnal, "Called as Partners in Christ's Service"

Benediction

The Postlude





Connecting the Generations

by Rev. Tom Tickner

“What will we do with all of these kids at our place all day long?”

“I am not sure I want kids here for a full week?”

“It sure is going to be noisy.”

These were some of the thoughts of residents at Grace Presbyterian Village in Dallas, Texas when finding out that fifteen fourth, fifth and sixth graders would be spending a week as part of a mission project of First Presbyterian Church Dallas, Texas. There was skepticism and some fear about this upcoming project.

But the idea had been a dream of Miatta Wilson, Director of Children’s Ministries, for some time. And this dream came to reality after Miatta and several staff members of Grace Presbyterian Village met in early 2009 to plan for this summer project. In August of 2009 fifteen young people and adult sponsors from the church and residents from Grace Presbyterian Village would share a week together.



On that first Monday when the young people came you could sense that it was not just the residents who might have some doubts about the week. These young people were also wondering what the week would be like.

Would they be able to communicate with the residents?

Would the residents like them?

Would this be fun?

By the time the week was over beautiful friendships had been developed, fun experiences had been shared and much learning had taken place on the part of both residents and young people. The question that seemed to be asked now was:

“When will we do this next summer?”



Truly this week long experience had been a time of learning for both residents and campers. The structure of the week gave the opportunity for so much interaction. Meals were shared together. Residents offered a time of sharing their gifts and talents with the young people. The young people visited with residents, played games with them and led times of worship. A bridge between ages had been built.

This mission experience was not just young people coming “to do something for older adults.” It became a time of both groups giving and both groups learning.

It became an opportunity for young people to become comfortable with older adults and it was a time for older adults to give and receive beyond themselves.

The question about next year was also answered. Yes, there was a next year. For the past two summers this group from First Presbyterian Church, Dallas has spent a week of growing and learning with residents of Grace Presbyterian Village.

But even more exciting is that in the summer of 2010 young people from Preston Hollow Presbyterian Church and North Park Presbyterian Church joined with residents of Presbyterian Village North, a sister facility to Grace Presbyterian Village to plan their own week of ministry together. They too are planning another summer and discussion is being held for a second week at Grace Presbyterian Village with another church. This dream by one person continues to multiply.

If there is interest by other churches to share such an experience of ministry, please feel free to contact Rev. Tom Tickner, at: Ttickner@prescs.org. This summer experience is a wonderful time of “Connecting the Generations.”



***Rev. Tom Tickner** serves as Minister of Spiritual Life at Grace Presbyterian Village in Dallas, Texas. Having served a Presbyterian congregation in Oklahoma for 19 years, Tom brings a heart for ministry to Grace Presbyterian Village that allows him to serve this special setting of ministry. Through worship, study, outreach and pastoral care, Tom provides opportunities for the community of Grace Presbyterian Village to continue to grow in faith, to be nurtured in spirit and to receive Gods care during difficult transitions of life.*



Reaching Across The Ages: Multigenerational Ministry

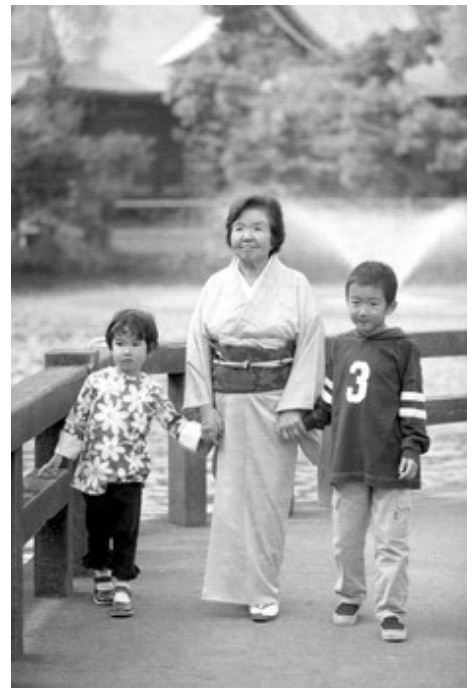
by Michele Shultz Hendrix

There is no doubt about it! The newest diversity issue on the block is generational diversity. Age has taken its place beside gender, race, and culture as a way to define what binds some groups of people together and drives others absolutely crazy.

Generations have completely different ways of worshipping, working, serving, talking, and thinking. The question we face in our congregations is how to mold this generational hodgepodge of ages, faces, values, and views into a productive, collaborative group. People of all ages can worship, serve and work together side by side and draw from a rich mixture of skill and experience. As a community of believers we need to cultivate multigenerational friendships and relationships. An intergenerational ministry is relational and intentional, honest & transparent. There is mutual learning and teaching. There are common missions and collaboration in age groups. Leadership is shared with diverse venues.

We live in an age-segregated society. Other than the family, there are few opportunities for meaningful interaction between people of different ages. Even in the family, there are many reasons why interaction between the oldest and, youngest generations does not happen as often as we might like. Children are placed in school groupings according to age, and their age/grade category tends to follow them in their involvement in community settings. While young and middle-aged adults may work together, there is never-the-less a tendency to maintain social lives dominated by age peers. Older people find lots of opportunity to spend time together in seniors' centers or in programs designated especially for them in church or community centers, but little opportunity to form friendships with others outside their own generation.

Generational experts have laid out age ranges to define members of the generations, but these are just guidelines. There is no magic birth date that makes you part of a particular generation. Generational personalities go much deeper. We carry our "generational personalities" with us through life. In fact when challenges, crisis or hard times hit, the generations are likely to entrench themselves even more deeply into the attitudes and behaviors that have been ingrained in them.



Each generation shares a common history. The events and conditions each of us experiences during our formative years determine who we are and how we see the world. As a result of each of these events and conditions, each generation has developed its own “generational personality”. There’s also the fact that the accelerating pace of change over the past century has made it difficult for generations to find common ground.

As a result, it is no longer possible to assume that a multigenerational group has the same life experiences and cultural touchstones in common. This can translate into communication challenges and a breakdown of the bonds that hold families together. American churches, families and businesses are being rocked by a series of generational collisions at every turn.

The average life expectancy at birth in 1900 was forty seven. Today it is closing in on 80+. Suddenly four, sometimes five generations comprise a family unit instead of two or three. For the first time in history, we have four or five distinct generations living, worshiping, and working shoulder-to-shoulder and face-to-face in a stressful, competitive society and workplace.

There is an increasing number of persons living longer and better than anyone could imagine. This “age wave” and “silver tsunami” is running rapidly through the nation and the church needs to make the most of the incredible capacity of the new kind of older adults who are becoming the dominant fabric of our nation. The percent of older persons is growing and expected to nearly double between 1990 and 2030.

Life is a gift of God and aging is a natural part of living from birth to death. Older adults have traveled further along the journey. Understanding aging concerns all of life. The church needs to be sensitive and responsive. It is our loss as individuals when we find ourselves without the friendship of someone who is very different in age to us. People born at times different to our own bring a different perspective to life - one that has the potential to enrich our own. Our own faith story can contribute to the building up of the body of Christ and has the capacity of trust in God to others and increase God’s praise.

“There is great power in age: power of wisdom, power in experience, power in time and financial resources. It’s time to unleash that power within congregation and churches across the country.”





How Multigenerational Ministries Close the Gap

Regardless of setting - teaching, worship, outreach - multigenerational ministries are built on several principles:

- **Age-integration.** Rather than separating into groups by age or grade-level, multi-generational ministry purposely teams people from different age groups.
- **Generational understanding.** Relationships are fostered that reduce intergenerational conflict and misunderstanding.
- **Integration of “households”.** While not all multi-generational ministries use the same terminology, singles, widows, and other heads-of-household are validated as family units and are often mainstreamed with nuclear families.
- **Parent/Grandparent responsibility for faith development.** Parents and grandparents are encouraged and equipped to take the primary role in their children’s faith education, to “impress” upon their own children the truths of God (Deut. 6:6-9).



Michele Shultz Hendrix has served fifteen years as Director Encore 50+ Adult Ministry and as a Pastoral Care Assistant for 50+ and older adults at Grace Presbyterian Church-Houston. Prior to her ministry at GPCCH she served at a non-profit Senior Adult Center in Houston for eight years. Michele has a national reputation as an advocate for 50+ Older Adults. The Encore 50+ program at Grace-Houston is often used as a model across the country. She has conducted workshops nationally for PC(USA) Presbyterian Older Adult Ministry Network; Presbytery of New Covenant and various 50+ and older adult forums for Interfaith Care Partners of Houston and Encore Generation Leadership Network, Dallas; St. Luke’s Methodist Church, Houston; and Life Care Centers of America. Michele has been passionately involved in advocacy, program development, Christian care-management, researching, networking, and providing resources in the area of Older Adult Ministry for 22 years. She is a Stephen Minister and Stephen Ministry Trainer.

Michele was appointed and served on the 2003 General Assembly Task Force for Older Adult Ministry working with middle governing bodies on issues of aging and the church. She also provides consulting services, leader development, educational workshops, presentations, and retreats on issues of aging. Michele is married to Dale Hendrix and they have 5 adult children and 8 grandchildren.



G Will Proclaim Your Faithfulness to All Generations

by Jan L. McGilliard

The psalmist says it best: *“I will sing of your steadfast love, O Lord, forever; with my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations.”* (Psalm 89:1)

Scattering phase: Enter the church on a Sunday morning. Babes in arms are carried to the nursery, toddlers to their pre-K rooms, children and youth to their respective classes, adults to their adult education classes, coffee and tea in hand.

Gathering phase: Later, they gather for the beginning of worship, all ages... little ones wiggling, big ones whispering to friends, grownups searching for someone in the crowd. Older ones are checking up on one another and greeting everyone. For a time, all are gathered to worship the living God. It feels good and it feels right to be together as one body.

Mattering phase: What happened, in the midst of this beehive of activity, that mattered, that made a difference in someone’s life?

It is true that the church is one of the few places that all ages gather in one place to worship, to serve, to learn, to give, and to receive according to their spiritual needs and gifts. In a recent interview for a position as acting campus minister, I was asked how I would characterize campus ministry. My response was very simple: *it’s about sharing life experiences and growing together in the Spirit.* In a nutshell, I believe that intergenerational ministry is about being **mindful** of all ages and stages of life.

Ten years ago, this planning guide was entitled *Maintaining the Connections: Old and Young Together* (Go to www.poamn.org and click on archived planning guides to read this excellent guide.) For three years, the POAMN conference focused on some aspect of intergenerational ministry. And so we have come full circle to re-visit a topic that is vital to enriching our congregational life: how it is that we can blend the age groups more often, with more intention, with positive outcomes.

Reciprocity is a key element in successfully navigating generational ties. Below is a simple chart that serves to remind us of reciprocal needs linking adults and children.





Reciprocal Needs Linking Generations

- To nurture
- To teach
- To have successful life review
- To share cultural mores
- To communicate positive values
- To leave a legacy
- To be nurtured
- To be taught
- To learn from/about the past
- Have a cultural identity
- Have positive role models
- Be connected to preceding generations



Keeping these links in mind, consider how aspects of congregational life and community outreach can be enhanced by intentionally connecting the generations. Typically, there are three models of intergenerational exchange:

- Adults/Older adults serving youth
- Youth serving adults/older adults
- Older and younger together serving others

All are worthy models, but older and younger coming together to serve a common cause or purpose creates the most powerful, memorable experience. The concept is very simple: consider areas of ministry in light of connecting the generations for the common good.

Fellowship & Outreach

- Food preparation, presentation, and delivery
- Church meals/activities with a theme, like making Advent wreaths and delivering them to home bound members and community facilities; delivering flowers after worship to folks unable to participate in worship; decorating gingerbread houses together
- Community gardening, gleaning, preparing produce, delivering food
- Church wide retreats that intentionally involve all generations in activities
- Older and younger teams that serve others: raking leaves, reading to groups of children and older adults, helping with tasks in individuals' homes, working a rest stop at a sporting event, building projects
- Intergenerational mission trips and making the effort to share experiences with the congregation
- Walking/Fitness/health/holistic and simple living efforts
- "Greening" of the church...common efforts to use less energy, ecologically friendly products, recycling
- Use of blogs, web sites, social networking and webcams to connect individuals and groups positively
- Older and younger interviewing one another, using media to share
- Use of screens in churches and in gathering spaces of the church can make information and sharing more accessible
- Field trips and mission trips, returning with ideas for ministry

- Active/healthy life style activities done together: hiking, biking, walking, balance class, learning about healthy food choices and promoting them at church-wide gatherings
- Sports teams, teams for causes (Relay for Life, Walk for a Cure, MS bike rides, Team in Training for the Leukemia Society, 5K & 10K races for a cause), honoring members of the congregation dealing with diseases by taking action for a related cause
- Connecting skills and needs across generations (like repairing and refurbishing toys and offering them to Christmas stores), tutoring, mentoring

Worship Life

- Older and younger greeters
- All-age choirs, hand bell choirs, musical productions; intentionally sing hymns that speak to a variety of age groups...something for everyone
- Family friendly worship services, meaningful children's sermons, involving all ages in leading liturgy, reading scripture, dramatic readings, "family" units leading Advent readings and lighting of candles, preparation of communion elements, "chores of the church" done together
- Use of media in worship is increasingly important and can involve all age groups in preparation and implementation. Can make worship accessible to more people
- Writing and sharing of liturgy, music, dance, art, and drama
- Connecting home bound persons with the life of the church using teams of older and younger folks who will deliver videos, CDs, photos, printed sermons, flowers, and food
- Prayer partners, prayer requests, practicing spiritual practices and disciplines
- Intentionally sit in different areas in the church and get to know others, especially in different age groups

Awareness of organizations dedicated to the connecting and understanding the generations is another key to success in our quest to be mindful in our planning, preparation, and implementation of ministries within our congregations and communities. Generations United and AARP are two examples of organizations committed to generational justice, legislation, understanding, and the building of relationships. The use of technology can help to bridge communication gaps and enhance our ability to work together. Use of Doodle calendars to plan meetings, CaringMeals.com to organize meals, CarePages.com and CaringBridges.com to keep folks updated on the status of church members are tools of the trade these days. Texting words of encouragement or simply, how r u? might mean the moon to a young person in the midst of taking exams. Young people are keen to teach their elders about techniques and technology that will help them access services and information, on-line banking, and ties with grandchildren that live far away. Story-telling and sharing now make use of video clips and old photos (scanned), and scrap booking. In every age and stage of life, we need the involvement and commitment of all the ages to be the whole people of God so that we, like the Psalmist, can proclaim God's steadfast love and faithfulness to all generations.

*Jan McGilliard is Executive Director of **ElderConnections**, which provides consulting services, leader development, educational workshops, keynote presentations, and retreats on issues of aging and spirituality. Jan holds the M.S. degree in Family and Child Development with emphasis on Adult Development and Aging and the Certificate for Gerontology from Virginia Tech. She is a certified Intergenerational Specialist, and is an accredited Lay Preacher. Jan is currently serving as Acting Campus Minister for Cooper House Presbyterian Campus Ministry at Virginia Tech.*



Sincreasing Numbers of Children Raised by Grandparents and Other Relatives

by Amy Goyer

New data released in December 2010 indicates almost 5 million children are living in grandparent-headed households, up from 4.5 million in 2000.

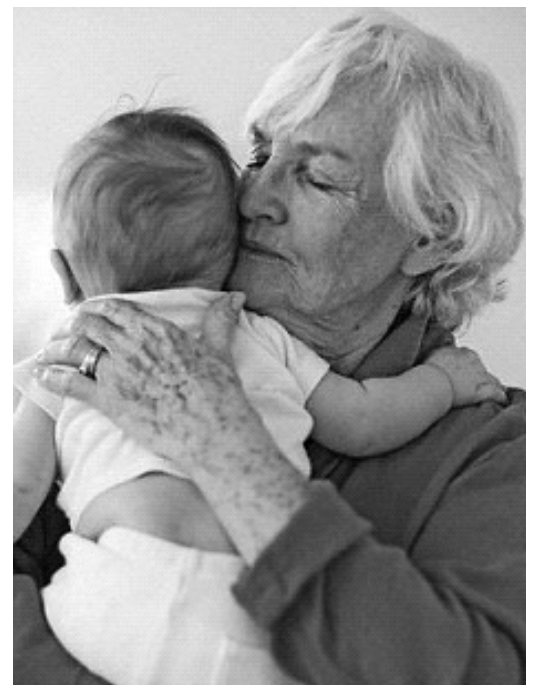
According to the U.S. Census Bureau, data taken from the 2005 – 2009 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimates, in the United States:

- **4.9 million children** under age 18 live in grandparent-headed households. That's 7% of the children in the U.S. By contrast, in 2000 the U.S. Decennial Census found 4.5 million children living in grandparent-headed households (about 6%).
- **964,579 (about 20%) of these children** have neither parent present and the grandparents are responsible for their basic needs. In 2000 approximately one-third lived without parents.
- **Another 1.9 million children** living in households headed by other relatives (2.5% of the children in the country). This number is up from 1.5 million in 2000.

Why are so many children living with relatives?

Every "grandfamily" (families in which grandparents or other relatives are raising children) is unique; no two situations are the same. But generally a crisis or a chronic problem experienced by the parents sets up a situation where children move in with grandparents or other relatives. Some of the most common causes include:

- Substance abuse
- Mental health
- Incarceration
- HIV/AIDS
- Teen pregnancy
- Death of a parent
- Child abuse and neglect
- Unemployment
- Loss of home due to foreclosure
- Divorce
- Family violence
- Poverty
- Military deployment





Frequently these problems overlap leaving families to deal with multiple issues at once which can be overwhelming. Often grandparents step in to provide stability and security for their grandchildren and in some cases the parents as well. But for 20% of these children, their parents are not living with them. Grandparents are fully responsible for the basic needs of these grandchildren. They are on their own.

Issues and Challenges

These families face many challenges, including:

- **Financial** – grandparents don't plan to raise another family, and it's expensive to raise children these days. Often they use up retirement savings on court cases or just the basic needs of their grandchildren. Almost 20% of these grandparents are living in poverty. There are public benefits and other financial supports available to many families, but often they don't know about them or are misinformed about eligibility requirements. Grandfamilies need financial advice as well as screening for public benefits and help applying for them.
- **Legal** – most grandparents don't have a formal legal relationship with grandchildren they are raising. But that can be problematic, especially if they are raising them on their own. In situations where a parent is unstable, without guardianship or custody, a parent can take the child away at any time. In addition, grandparents may have trouble registering grandchildren in school or getting medical care for them. Some public benefits may also be dependent upon the legal relationship. Grandfamilies need affordable legal advice and education about their legal options.
- **Work and Training** – a large portion of grandparent caregivers are under the age of 65 and many are working. They struggle to keep up with work and raising grandchildren, and some experience discrimination from employers. Some lose their jobs or choose to stop working to raise the grandchildren – but that can put them in financial jeopardy. Grandfamilies need help finding flexible work, getting training for jobs that fit their needs, and finding child care or respite care.
- **Housing and Safety** – Often grandparents are unprepared for additional people to live in their homes. Not so many can afford to renovate their homes to add bedrooms or move to a larger home in a safe neighborhood. They also need to adapt their homes for safety, depending on the age of their grandchildren. In some cases, they live in seniors-only housing and children aren't allowed to live there. Grandfamilies need help adapting their homes, finding appropriate housing and financial assistance to pay for it.
- **Physical and Mental Health** – Both grandparents and other relative caregivers and the children they are raising can experience many health challenges. The stress of their situation often causes caregivers' health to suffer; it is not uncommon for them to sacrifice their doctor appointments and medications to focus on the children's needs. Children in grandfamilies often have chronic special needs and health demands, and about 1/3 do not have health insurance. Grandfamilies need help managing health issues, relieving stress and obtaining health insurance.





- **Education** – getting children registered in school and attaining tutoring and services for special learning needs, as well as keeping up with homework can be major challenges for grandfamilies. They need help navigating the education system and helping the children to be successful in school.
- **Support and Navigation** – for grandparent and other relative caregivers, isolation can be their greatest problem. Many feel that they are alone in this situation. Connecting with other families in similar situations can make all the difference for them. They also are so often unaware of benefits, resources and services that are available to them. Grandfamilies need support groups and information/referral services to help them navigate successfully through their challenges and celebrate their triumphs.

How you can help

You can help support grandfamilies in your community, both as individuals and as congregations. Here are some ideas to help stimulate your thinking about how you can help grandparents and other relatives and the children they are raising in your community.

- Educate your congregation about the issues and challenges grandfamilies are facing. Bring in local experts, program leaders and grandparent or other relative caregivers to speak and share their experiences.
- Offer respite care so caregivers can have time to themselves or attend doctor appointments and other activities while you care for the children.
- Run a food bank; offer food, clothing, diapers, school supplies and emergency supplies for grandfamilies.
- Provide a place for support groups for grandfamilies to meet.
- Help grandparent and other relative caregivers to access public benefits by assisting them with online screening. One good source is www.aarp.org/quicklink, which is a quick and easy online screener that checks for 15 public benefits for older adults, families and children.
- Offer a “warm line” (not a “hot line,” but staffed by volunteers during established hours and callers will get a return call within 24 hours if they don’t reach a person when they call) that caregivers can call and get information about services, resources and benefits in their community.
- Offer a grandfamily resource center with a computer, information, books, resources, training, guest speakers and other services.
- Offer tutoring for children being raised by grandparents or other relatives.
- Convene a community coalition to focus on the issues of grandfamilies.
- Find attorneys who will offer pro bono assistance to grandfamilies and provide a place for them to meet.
- Collect donations and set up an emergency fund for caregivers who suddenly and unexpectedly have children to care for.
- Honor grandparent caregivers on National Grandparents Day (September). Have a luncheon for them, take them on an outing; treat them to a special day.



- Offer a summer camp for grandparents and other relative caregivers and the children they are raising.
- Provide volunteers to help with home repairs and renovations to make homes appropriate for raising children.
- Hold a forum where caregivers have the opportunity to talk about their needs and the supports that would be most helpful to them.

Key resources that can help grandfamilies

- *GrandFacts State Fact Sheets for Grandparents and Other Relatives Raising Children*, www.grandfactsheets.org, provide state-specific information for all 50 states, DC, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. They include key data, programs, public benefits, financial assistance, laws and more.
- AARP has articles, the GrandCare Support Locator, Benefits QuickLink public benefits screening tool and other resources that can be helpful: www.aarp.org/grandparents. *Grandmother to Grandmother: New York to Tanzania* is a film that highlights two programs serving grandmothers raising grandchildren. One is a housing program run by Presbyterian Senior Services in The Bronx, New York and the other is a program in Tanzania. Grandmothers and their grandchildren from The Bronx travel to Tanzania and meet the “grandfamilies” in Tanzania. This heartwarming and inspirational film gives hope to all who see it. Visit www.olddogdocumentaries.com where you can see the film trailer and order a copy.



For more information, contact Amy Goyer at: algoyer@comcast.net or 202-746-0550.

Amy Goyer is a Consultant, Author, and Media Spokesperson, who has been involved in intergenerational issues and programs at the local, state, national and international levels for 25 years. She has written, lectured and served as a media spokesperson extensively about family, aging, multi/inter-generational relationships and grandparenting issues. As a consultant, Ms. Goyer provides expertise to organizations regarding building intergenerational relationships, program development, project management, grant writing, strategic planning and partnerships. Ms. Goyer is a proven thought-leader and authority who brings a deep understanding of the topics, trends and issues impacting today's families.



What's Happening to Grandma?

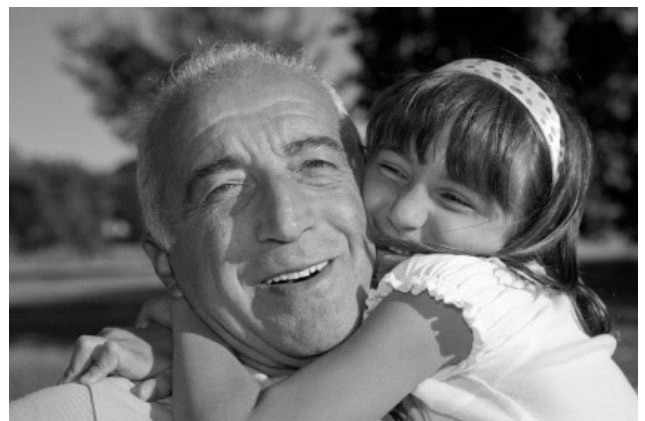
by Ginny Nyhuis



On January 1, 2011 the first of more than 78 million Baby Boomers turned 65. Over the next two decades about 10,000 baby boomers will turn 65 every day. With this increased number of individuals over the age of 65, we will also see an increased number of persons affected by Alzheimer's disease or related dementia. With age being the greatest risk factor for this disease, it is expected that the current number of 5.3 million citizens in the United States with Alzheimer's disease will more than triple by the year 2050 when all of the Baby Boomers will be 85 or older (unless medical breakthroughs identify ways to prevent or more effectively treat the disease). Add to this number the number of family members affected by some type of dementia as they become caregivers for a loved one. Many of these caregivers are children. In fact, it is reported by the Alzheimer's Association in their *2010 Alzheimer's Disease Facts and Figures Report*, that 18% of children aged 8-18 provide care for a person with some type of dementia. In some cases children are caring for a grandparent after school, on

weekends, or summer vacation, while their parent(s) work. In other cases children are caring for a grandparent who had been raising the child until symptoms of the disease took over.

As leaders in our congregations we need to be able to respond to children and teens when they are confused by the changes they see in their grandparents, and in some more rare cases of Younger Onset Alzheimer's disease - occurring in individuals younger than 65, - even in their own parents. How do we answer the question, "What's happening to grandma or grandpa?" How do we respond to children that are afraid of their own grandparent because that person may no longer remember the child's name, or no longer are the loving person the child could always count on for a hug and a smile? How do we explain the bizarre behavior of a confused loved one to an embarrassed teen?



When a family member, friend, or fellow church member is living with dementia, a child might feel:

- Sad about how the person is changing
- Curious about how people get the disease

- Confused about why the person acts differently
- Frustrated by the new things it's necessary to do because of the disease's effects
- Guilty for getting angry with the person
- Afraid of the different ways in which the person now acts
- Jealous of the additional time and attention given to the person
- Worried that he or she - or other loved ones - might also get the disease
- Embarrassed to have friends or other visitors to the house if the person is there and acts strangely
- Unsure how to act around that person

All of these feelings are normal. We need to encourage the child to express their feelings in a healthy way and to ask questions. Some tips to use when talking to children and teens about dementia:

- Keep open lines of communication. Good communication is the best way to help a child deal with the changes that are occurring
- Answer honestly using age-appropriate language and terms. Try not to sugar coat the message.
- Teach the child about the disease. Begin sharing information about the disease and its symptoms as soon as possible.
- Reassure the child that just because a person in the family has the disease, it does not mean that other family members will definitely get the disease. Let them know the disease is not contagious.
- Let the child know these feelings are normal. Children need a way to share their feelings. Show comfort and support.
- Create opportunities for children to express feelings. Make sure the child is getting enough support. Look for appropriate Support Groups in the community for the child to attend, or create your own Support Group. Activities or outings together can create opportunities for a child to open up.
- Prepare children for changes. Let them know what changes to expect. Alzheimer's and other related dementias get worse over time. A person may look healthy on the outside, but on the inside the brain is not working properly.
- Let the child know it is not his or her fault. Dementia can cause a person to direct confusion, fear or anger at a child. If this happens, be sure the child knows the person did not mean to act that way.



Most importantly make sure children know that even though a person with dementia may forget, love and kindness are still felt.

Ginny Nyhuis is Community Outreach Coordinator for the Alzheimer's Association of Southeastern Wisconsin. In this role she provides information and resources for persons with and the families of persons with Alzheimer's disease and other dementias. She conducts various training events for professionals and the general public in the community to build awareness of these diseases and the importance of adopting a brain-healthy lifestyle. Ginny received a Master's of Social Work degree from the University of Louisville, while building a connection with POAMN through her work in Older Adult Ministries in the PC(U.S.A.).



@ Celebration of Wisdom: Giving Up the Privilege of Driving

original author unknown, adapted and submitted by Rev. Vickie Kintzel

Giving up the independence that is associated with being able to drive can be a very difficult decision for many of us. Those that choose to give up driving if it becomes too dangerous, show great wisdom and strength. This brief celebration may be used to honor those that have made the decision to stop driving.

There are those among us today who have recently shown wisdom in agreeing to voluntarily give up the privilege of driving. While family and friends may have agreed and even encouraged the action, these persons have taken the positive step without the intervention of medical or legal authority. We celebrate their wisdom and their continued contributions to our congregation and society. All such persons are invited to rise in place at this time.

Leader: Lord, we give you thanks for the privilege of driving and the freedom it gives.

People: **We acknowledge the desire to choose when to come and go, the route we will take, and the self-reliance that is part of driving.**

Leader: Lord, we give you thanks for those who have chosen to lay aside this freedom in favor of reliance on others.

People: **We recognize that this decision is one involving loss of independence, and the difficulty of depending on others.**

Leader: We accept our reliance on you at all times, whether we are too young to drive, unable to drive, or we have laid aside this freedom.

People: **Bless those who have shown wisdom in this decision, an act of sincere and impartial consideration and submission, and we ask that you bless them with mercy and continued fruit of the Holy Spirit.**

All: **Faithful God, keep, preserve and protect these wise ones among us all their days. By the power of your Holy Spirit, may they continue to be salt of the earth and light for the world. Lead them onward to new ways of service, secure in the faith that binds us forever in the body of Christ. Amen.**

(all may be seated)





Older Adult Ministries Certification

Why certify?

Why pursue Older Adult Ministries Certification, you ask? Because it is an opportunity to become proficient in the language of the “third age,” of those who have traveled further on the journey of life. OAM Certification is designed to educate individuals to be in effective ministry with a growing, blooming segment of the population. It is in the life of the church that we promise to nurture and love each other as the people of God from cradle to grave and beyond.



2010 Course Four Certification Class, Orlando Florida

Later life presents many opportunities and challenges unique to mature adults, with a common theme of *change*. The Presbyterian Older Adult Ministries Network (POAMN) of the PC(USA) offers an excellent training program that prepares individuals to engage

in ministry with older adults in the context of their faith communities, their family networks, and their communities. It provides a theological and biblical background as applied to the physical, emotional, intellectual, and spiritual needs of older adults. Participants will be able to advocate for older adults in a professional way, to provide education and advocacy for all whose ministry involves older adults.

- ◆ Course One: Spiritual Formation for Older Adult Ministries
- ◆ Course Two: Teaching for Transformation in Older Adult Ministries
- ◆ Course Three: Reformed Theological Answers to Questions of Middle/Older Adults
- ◆ Course Four: Physical and Mental Changes in Aging
- ◆ Elective Study: choose an area of special interest
- ◆ Final Project: integrate course work in a practical final project

To inquire about POAMN’s Older Adult Ministry Certification Program, contact Jan McGilliard, Coordinator, at janmcgilli@gmail.com, or by phone at 540-953-1366. Visit the POAMN web site at www.poamn.org.



Be a Part of the Network!

The Presbyterian Older Adult Ministries Network (POAMN) is actively addressing the new challenges and ever changing needs of our church's aging membership, and advocating on behalf of our older adult members. POAMN members include pastors, educators, and many others who work with older adults within our congregations, presbyteries, and retirement communities.

The POAMN Executive Committee asks all of us to pay our annual POAMN membership dues. These dues represent our financial investment in the ongoing work of POAMN, the publication of POAMN Network News our newsletter, and provide funds for scholarships. POAMN's primary focus is to facilitate networking among older adult ministries colleagues through training conferences, specialized educational workshops, and forums for sharing ideas and experiences with others from across the nation. In addition, a certification course is offered specific to the administration of older adult ministries. Discounted registration fees to POAMN sponsored training events are made available to all POAMN members.

Please prayerfully consider renewing or becoming a new POAMN member.

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POAMN Membership Form

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Preferred Phone - Indicate Type (i.e. cell, home, work) _____

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Other Organization _____

I wish to become a member of the Presbyterian Older Adult Ministries Network (POAMN)

- New Member Renewal

Membership Type:

- \$30 Full Membership
 \$20 Affiliate Membership
 \$100 Institutional, Church & Judicatory Membership

To continue POAMN's ministry to older adults and those engaged in ministries for older adults, additional gifts are also welcome, including those in honor or memory of an older adult.

\$ _____ Extra Donation to POAMN

_____ Gift of \$ _____ enclosed in honor / memory of _____

Please enclose membership fee with this form and return it with your check payable to:

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Prepared by the
Presbyterian Older Adult Ministries Network (POAMN)
www.poamn.org

Edited by Ginny Nyhuis
Photographs by clipart.com
Printed by C&R Graphics, Louisville KY

Published through the cooperation of
United Adult Ministries, Inc.
Flushing, New York
Douglas Kurtz, President/CEO



January 2011

Order from:

Presbyterian Distribution Service (PDS)

(800) 524-2612

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PDS# 23304-11-001