

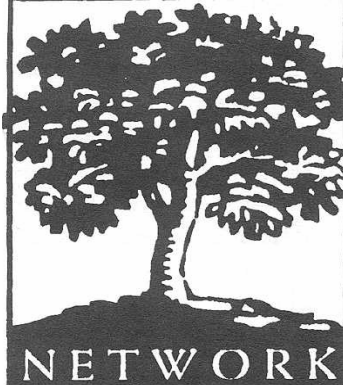
POAMN Network News

Resource Guide for Older Adult Ministries

ISSUE 5

Autumn 2008

Presbyterian
Older Adult
Ministries



A Publication of the
Presbyterian Older Adult
Ministries Network
(POAMN)

Editor:

Mike Fonfara
269-692-3176

mikefonfara@tampabay.rr.com

Publisher:

Ginny Nyhuis
615-426-1545

gnyhuis@verizon.net

Inside this issue:

Editor's Comments	1
Another Perspective on POAMN History	2-3
OAM Program Resource	3
Legacy Award	3
2009 Membership	3
2009 Conference	3
Book Review	3
President's Message	4
Motivational Minute	4
POAMN is on Facebook	5
Websites Worth Visiting	5
Membership List	6
Holiday Prayers	7
Membership Application	7
POAMN Leadership	8

EDITOR'S COMMENTS

Dear POAMN family,

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas! Thanksgiving, Advent, Christmas, New Year's Day, and the other holidays are so nice. So much to do! So much to enjoy! May you and your families experience a blessed holiday season.

This issue of *PNN* reflects the holiness and busyness of this time of year. Please take time to read through the pages where POAMN people share inspiration, program ideas, announcements, 2009 events, and information about senior adult living. There is even a little laughter found on some pages.

Please note that 2009 membership fees are due at the first of the year. POAMN needs members!

The 2009 Annual Conference in Tucson has already attracted top talent for worship and workshop leadership. Read more about this event inside,

There is just too much good stuff inside to note it all here. Read for yourself!

Please start thinking about what you can contribute to the Winter, 2009 issue of *POAMN Network News*. This next issue's theme is "Tight Budget Ministry." I will start working on the next newsletter in early January. Reader contributions make this publication a true POAMN resource to enrich older adult ministries. PNN readers need and appreciate your columns, reviews, program ideas, announcements, and anything else you would like to submit for the good of our ministries. Thank you for your considerations.

May God bless you during the remaining holy days of 2008 and into those days of 2009!

Mike Fonfara
Editor

One of the many things no one tells you about aging
is that it is such a nice change from being young.

I was at the beauty shop nearly two hours -
that was only for an estimate.
I could have been at an OAM meeting!

ANOTHER PERSPECTIVE ON POAMN HISTORY

September 17, 2008

Dear Darlene [Shepherd]:

When I retired, I left all my POAMN files in my office. They were then placed "in the Archives." Therefore, I will have to depend entirely upon my memory to give more information about the development of POAMN since 1990.

NAMES: The name of the organization in 1990 was the Association of Older Adult Ministry Enablers. At that time, the word "Enabler" had become a not so popular word because of the drug culture. Therefore, the name was changed to the Presbyterian Older Adult Ministry Network (POAMN). The newsletter, AGenda, already had its name -- suggested and put into practice by Betty Partenheimer who was Administrative Assistant to Tom Robb, Director of the Office on Aging in Atlanta in the 1980's. That name was continued until the Office of Older Adult Ministry in Louisville was closed in 2006 when the name of the newsletter was changed to *POAMN Network News: Resource guide for Older Adult Ministries*.

FINANCES: The Executive Committee (President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, AGenda Editor, and the Nominating Committee Chair met twice a year to plan the annual conferences. These meetings and the annual conference were subsidized by a grant of approximately \$6000 each year from the Office of Older Adult Ministry. In addition, when the Office began to raise its own program funds, gifts to the Extra Commitment Opportunity List provided some assistance. During the periods of very tight budgets, some members of the Executive Committee paid their own travel and lodging expenses.

PEOPLE: I cannot list all those leaders who meant so much to POAMN by beginning to name names, but knowing that I will leave out some who made valuable contributions to the organization, I will name a few that come to mind. Pat Schroeder who was President of POAMN during my first years in the Office, so knowledgeable and creative; Max and Bertie Platt -- Max served as POAMN Presi-

dent for two terms, Bertie who led the singing and recreation at conferences; Jack and Sue Angerman -- Jack who served in so many valuable ways, including in the financial arena, and Sue who led workshops, led worship, and brought much creativity to the conferences; John Rhea and Dick Comfort who were leaders, advisors and strong supporters and had been the mainstays for the "Gift of a Lifetime" program in the 1980's, as were the Angermans and the Platts. Helen Morrison, who brought a POAMN presence into the General Assembly Council and was a strong advocator throughout the years. Marvin Simmers, who was my supervisor for ten years, fought the battles for his staff in order that the staff could do their work. He was filled with good ideas about how to expand and enrich POAMN, led workshops at conferences, and was always a strong presence and brought much needed humor as needed. Jan McGilliard, served as President of POAMN and brought strong leadership, creative ideas and support during the entire decade, and along with Pat Schroeder traveled with me to England to attend and present reports at the World Council of Churches Consultation on Aging. Margaret Suttle, such a strong, committed President of POAMN, leading the organization through some very difficult times and bringing a spiritual depth to the organization. Doug Kurtz, the present President of POAMN, brings the important mutually helpful connection with retirement communities. Others that meant so much to POAMN during the 1990's included Betty Nicholson, Bill Guilford, Ron Richardson, Bev Greer, Polly Marcum, Vann Rogers, Val Tocci, Pat Baker, Beth Ann Force, David Taylor, Ginger Broussard, and many others.

When the Office of Older Adult Ministry was closed in Louisville, POAMN moved to the forefront of older adult issues. It continues the quarterly newsletter, the annual Older Adult Week Planning Guide, the annual conferences, and developing contacts with Presbytery Representatives in Older Adult Ministry, who get special training at the annual conferences. In addition, POAMN has in place a fully developed program of studies and processing that results in offering a Certification in Older Adult Ministries.

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

POAMN can be proud of its accomplishments, proud of its rich heritage, and proud to be a strong presence and advocate for an increasing older population in the church and in the nation.

Dr. S. Miriam Dunson

[Used with permission. Thanks to Darlene Shepherd for forwarding this history.]

OAM PROGRAM RESOURCE

Hallmark Cable Channel hosts *Odyssey Network Presents*, a sixty-minute program of inspiring stories of hope, forgiveness, and reconciliation. This TV program provides some ideas for older adult ministry discussions. (Please check your local TV listing for time and station. See Sunday morning first.)

(Do you have any resources that might be helpful for other PNN readers?)

IS YOUR GROUP ELIGIBLE FOR A LEGACY FUND GRANT?

An offering taken at last April's annual conference raised enough funds for POAMN to offer a few church senior service groups grants of up to \$150 to further their work. The Legacy Fund is now available for distribution. If you belong to such a group, please have the leadership write a simple letter explaining the project that will benefit from a modest grant. Please send your letter to:

Rev. Tom Tickner
619 Renee Lane
DeSoto, TX 75115
tom.tickner@gracepresbyterianvillage.org

or
Rev. Mike Fonfara, Editor
4239 N. Brynner Pass Terrace
Beverly Hills, FL 34465.

The Executive Committee will grant funds as the letters are received.

2009 MEMBERSHIP FEES ARE DUE JANUARY 1ST

Here's a quick reminder that 2009 dues can be sent to Linda Kelly (2212 Beacon Ridge Dr., Las Vegas, NV 89134) at any time. Look for more information on the membership form printed in this newsletter.

Please introduce a friend, your church, your Presbytery, and anyone else as well as any appropriate group to POAMN membership. Let's get the news out and recruit new members!

2009 ANNUAL CONFERENCE UP-DATE

Save the Date!

Joint Conference with POAMN and ARMSS
Celebrating POAMN's 25th Anniversary!

"Joy for the Journey, Equipping the Saints"
Tucson, Arizona: September 29-October 2, 2009

Special Worship Leaders include:

Miriam Dunson & Jim Reese

Keynoter Presenters: Paula Taylor & Ann Hayman

Presentation of the 2009 Legacy Awards

Special Chaplains' Track

OAM Certification Class to be held in conjunction
with the Conference

Many workshop choices!

Discover the Southwest ~ Extend your stay in Tucson
Mark your calendars ... Registration begins in early 2009!

(Thanks to Cindy Wright for this information!)



BOOK REVIEW

The Shack

by William Paul Young

This is not a book where you can read the last chapter first.

In a world where religion seems to grow increasingly irrelevant, *The Shack* wrestles with the timeless question: where is God in a world of unspeakable pain? The answers Mack gets will astound you and perhaps transform you as much as it did him.

(Thanks to Vickie Kintzel for this review sent via Darlene Shepherd.)

MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

It has been a busy September and October for POAMN. I had the privilege to sit in on the certification course entitled: Reformed Theological Answers to Questions of Middle/Older Adults led by Marvin L. Simmers, Instructor. It was truly a rewarding experience. Carla Gentry is doing a fabulous job in organizing the Certification Program. Watch for upcoming opportunities to participate in the Certification in Older Adult Ministry Program.

In October I joined Ellen Davis and Ella Banton from ARMSS as well as Cindy Wright, Laura Pauley and Tom Tickner from POAMN and Ginny Nyhuis to discuss the 2009 conference. It is going to be a fabulous conference. The weather will be good and the program leaders are sensational. Make your plans now to attend September 29-October 2, 2009.

There are so many wonderful programs for Older Adult Ministries that it is a shame that we are not doing a better job in sharing those ideas. Therefore, we are looking to set up a best practice link on our web site. I encourage you to e-mail me your great idea in Older Adult Ministries and share what is happening in your area. I also encourage you to network with colleagues in your area to meet regularly to share your experience in this vital ministry.

As we move toward the holiday season, it is my hope that each of you enjoy a happy holiday and a great new year.

Doug Kurtz

dkurtz@uam.org

A MOTIVATIONAL MINUTE

Darlene Shepherd writes:

We often hear – Our children are the church of the future. Can we look at that a bit differently - perhaps – the church is the children's future.

The older 1/3 of our churches –the Fannie Mae's and Freddie Mac's - have always been the support, the backbone, the dependable. Our future is now.

The Fannie's and Freddie's of the church have

been taken for granted, stood sturdily in the background, largely left to tend ourselves like a ship floating without an anchor.

However – we are NOT Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac in all aspects. We have the Strong Anchor. We could, however, use support to be all that we can be.

The Older Adult Ministries movement is growing into a groundswell. The Baby Boomers are among us now. There are still (at least) 58 % of older Americans who have no religious affiliation. How many of the older third of our members are floating? How many of non-members are we not reaching out to? How many of the eldest of our eldest are being ignored? This is a critical time - a critical era - this is a critical group in our churches.

When we speak of and plan for the future – whose future and what time-span are we planning for? Are we investing in the future at the expense of today? Who does this leave spiritually bankrupt and in need of bailouts?

The older segment of our membership has much to do. However, we have learned to get things done. Take a first step and contact the General/Executive Presbyterian or Stated Clerk of your Presbytery, and ask to present Older Adult Ministries at a Presbytery meeting in this coming year.

With some structure, with support and recognition, we can coordinate information, resources, and people to bring this together and build strong Older Adult Ministries to continue being the dependable backbone of every church so there will *be* a church for our children's future - in each town, Presbytery, Synod and beyond.

[If you would like to respond to Darlene, send an email to dshep@mahaska.org with "POAMN" written in the subject line.]

Concerned about dying tonight?
The question is how will we live and use our tomorrows to minister to others.

Cram for your final exam -
Be involved with OAM

POAMN IS ON FACEBOOK

Facebook is the largest growing Social Networking site on the Internet. Many Presbyterians are on Facebook and some Congregations and Presbyteries are utilizing Facebook to facilitate communication between meetings.

Facebook can be helpful to us in POAMN in building our network and helping us stay connected between our annual conferences as well as connect with other Presbyterians.

HOW DO YOU JOIN FACEBOOK?

- Go to www.facebook.com.
- Sign-up with your email and a self-created password. (don't forget to write down your password in a safe place)
- You can then create your profile on Facebook and include as much or as little information about yourself and your ministry as you would like. You can also add a photo to your profile. (upload this from your digital camera). What is nice is you can change your profile, pictures, background information and modify it at will.
- You can upload pictures of yourself, and or other people and "tag" them to share the fun. I upload photos of our POAMN events and place them on Facebook tagging members of POAMN who are part of the Facebook site.
- When you join facebook, you join the group Presbyterian Older Adult Ministries Network and then you can be up to speed with all the activities of our group.
- You can also find friends and relatives who might be part of the Facebook community when you search for them using their email address. You can also invite others to join Facebook by sending them an invitation email through Facebook.
- Don't forget to 'friend' people, especially other POAMN members. 'Friending' someone is creating an online network relationship with them. You have the option to accept or reject friend requests.
- My favorite thing to do on Facebook is to find old friends and relatives.
- For those concerned with privacy, and protection of their information, you can share as much

or little of yourself as you like and you have the option of rejecting people who want to 'friend' you.

Please email me at clgentry@kc.rr.com if you have questions about Facebook. I hope to see you all on Facebook soon as part of our Presbyterian Older Adult Ministries Network POAMN group and I also hope you will 'friend' me Carla Libby Gentry. In addition to the social networking activities, Facebook offers applications that allow you to play word games on line with other Facebook members, send silly stuff like plants, virtual food from a church potluck, and take silly tests and quizzes. It is fun as well as tool to connect to people you know.

[Thanks to Rev. Carla Gentry for getting POAMN onto FACEBOOK.]

WEBSITES WORTH VISITING

www.gbod.org/coa/newsletters.asp



This website offers the United Methodist Center on Aging & Older Adult Ministries excellent newsletter, *Center Sage*. Many interesting articles related of older adult ministries inform the reader. This is a five-star publication under the leadership of Richard H. Gentzler, Jr.

www.aarp.org/families/driver_safety (Click on "Test Your Driving IQ."] Are you a safe driver? Test your driver IQ by taking AARP's simple quiz.

When you are dissatisfied
and would like to go back to youth, -
think of Algebra.

Support Older Adult Ministries
Keep Grandma off the streets!

Thanks to all of you that have renewed your POAMN memberships for 2008! (listed below)
Your membership fees support the continuation of the Presbyterian Older Adult Ministries Network. There is still time to renew your membership or become a new member for 2008. See page 7 for more information.

Jack Angerman Dayton, OH	James Erixson Yakima, WA	Linda Kelly Las Vegas, NV	Rose Marie Rushton Hibbing, MN	Carroll Wood Cincinnati, OH
Sue Angerman Dayton, OH	Bradley Field Lincoln, NE	Thomas Kelly Las Vegas, NV	Gerald Sanders Oakmont, PA	Cindy Wright Solana Beach, CA
Barbara Baker Blue Bell, PA	Evelyn Flores Maryville, TN	Barbara Knoops Maryville, TN	Wanda Sawyers Bradbury, CA	Richard Wylie Sacramento, CA
Pat Baker Lilburn, GA	Barbara Floryshak Tribes Hill, NY	Douglas Kurtz Flushing, NY	Walter Schoedel Webster Groves, MO	Desiree Youngblood Sanderson, TX
Frank Baldwin Evanston, IL	Lynn Fonfara Beverly Hills, FL	Marilyn Lewis Bradenton, FL	Kay Schwenkmeyer La Habra, CA	
Dwane Bell Louisville, TN	Mike Fonfara Beverly Hills, FL	Houston Lowry Madisonville, TN	Darlene Shepherd Oskaloosa, IA	NEW POAMN MEMEBERS
Bernice Besch-Field Lincoln, NE	Beth Ann Force Wynnewood, PA	David Marx San Antonio, TX	JoAnn Simmers Avondale Estates, GA	SINCE OUR LAST ISSUE OF PNN
Philip Bliss Sarasota, FL	Richard Force Wynnewood, PA	Beecher Mathes Athens, GA	Marvin Simmers Avondale Estates, GA	Paul T. DeCamp New Orleans, LA
Margaret Brinck Sweetwater, TN	Kurt Freund Grand Rapids, MI	Peggy Matthews Greensboro, NC	Terrill Stumpf Chicago, IL	Mary Key Knoxville, TN
Ginger Broussard Orange, TX	Margaret Freund Grand Rapids, MI	Annette May Dayton, OH	Cheryl Sumner Richmond, VA	William H. Wolf Greenfield, IN
Anne Bunch Pensacola, FL	David Fulcher Waukesha, WI	Patricia McCleary San Antonio, TX	Margaret Suttle Jackson, TN	Douglas R. Potter Albertville, MN
Donald Carlin Philadelphia, PA	Carla Gentry Lee's Summit, MO	Geraldine McCorkindale San Antonio, TX	Tom Suttle Jackson, TN	Jane B. Anderson Rocky River, OH
Donna Coffman Winchester, VA	Ronald Gilreath Atlanta, GA	Jan McGilliard Blacksburg, VA	Charles Sutton Richmond, VA	Esther M. Rounds Baldwinsville, NY
Helen Cole Laurinburg, NC	Mary Griffiths Dayton, OH	Joan Irminger McKenzie Wheaton, IL	Anne Tarbutton Newman, GA	Teresa Kennedy Billings, MT
William Cooley Lakeland, FL	Donald Harris Orlando, FL	Evelyn Miller Maryville, TN	Louis Thompson Bonita Springs, FL	Jenny Lucas Waynesboro, VA
Robin Cuany Knoxville, TN	Quentin Holmes Marcola, OR	Helen Morrison Grosse Ile, MI	Tom Tickner DeSoto, TX	Nancy Williams-Berry Colfax, NC
Marilyn Doering Niles, IL	Sharon Horne Atlanta, GA	Nancy Parker Cleburne, TX	Marcella G. Trice Cincinnati, OH	Steven R. Smith Savannah, GA
Norma Dougherty Roseville, CA	Richard Huggin Lakeland, FL	Sarah Parker Galesburg, IL	Suzanne Ujcic Orlando, FL	Karin N. McAnlis Pennington, NJ
Donald Drew Watertown, NY	Eleanor Jaynes Knoxville, TN	Lara Pauley Solana Beach, CA	Carol Lee Wathen St. Petersburg, FL	Mary A. Proudfoot Pueblo, CO
Susan Duff Arlington Heights, IL	Hugh Jaynes Knoxville, TN	M. Agnes Peebles Cranberry Twp., PA	Helen Watkins Kettering, OH	
Martha Ebel Aiken, SC	Miriam Jenkins St. Louis, MO	C. Harvey Pitman Boise, ID	Daniel Willson Sacramento, CA	If your name was left off this membership listing in error please contact Ginny at gnyhuis@verizon.net or by calling 615-426-1545.
Juanita Eldridge Winston-Salem, NC	Susie Johnson Dallas, TX	Virginia Reichman Mandan, ND	Edward Wilson Charlotte, NC	
James Ellor Waco, TX	William Kaeding Chicopee, MA	Len Roark Wellington, CO	Lana Wingate Williamsburg, VA	

A THANKSGIVING PRAYER

Lord Jesus, I thank you
not just with my lips and heart
but with my spirit,
with which I recognize and love you.
You are my all, and everything is in you.
In you I live, move and have being.
You are my brother, my all.
You are the true God,
the true Son of God
to whom all honour, glory and thanks are due.
-Gallican Formularies
(9th Century, France)

A CHRISTMAS PRAYER

O God, our loving Father,
help us rightly to remember the birth of Jesus,
that we may share in the songs of angels,
the gladness of the shepherds,
and the worship of the wise men.
May the Christmas morning
make us happy to be your children,
and the Christmas evening
bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts,
forgiving and forgiven,
for Jesus' sake.
Amen.
-Robert Louis Stevenson
(1850-1894)

A PRAYER FOR THE NEW YEAR

My heart for very joy doth leap,
My lips no more their silence keep;
I too must sing with joyful tongue
That sweetest ancient cradle-song:
Glory to god in the highest heaven,
Who unto man his Son hath given;
While angels sing with pious mirth
A glad new year to all the earth.
-Martin Luther
(1483-1546)

Please remember with the new year POAMN membership fees are due.
Complete the following application and return with your membership fees.

POAMN Membership Application

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Synod: _____

Presbytery: _____

Church: _____

Other (Organization): _____

Membership Type:

- \$30 Full
 \$20 Affiliate
 \$100 Institutional (PAHSA, PCUSA schools, etc.)

Governing Bodies:

- \$50 Small Church (under 150)
 \$100 Medium Church (151-499)
 \$200 Large Church (500+)
 \$250 Small Presbytery (under 10,000)
 \$500 Medium Presbytery (10,001-19,999)
 \$1000 Large Presbytery (20,000+)
 \$1000 Synod

Make checks payable to:
POAMN
c/o Linda Kelly, Treasurer
2212 Beacon Ridge Dr.
Las Vegas, NV 89134

POAMN LEADERSHIP

Some readers have asked who works so hard to move this dynamic organization forward. Here are the persons serving on the Executive Committee who keep POAMN active and growing.

President: Rev. Doug Kurtz (DKurtz@uam.org)
Vice-President: Rev. Tom Tickner (TTickner@prescs.org)
Secretary: Beth Ann Force (BAFPO610@AOL.com)
Treasurer: Rev. Linda Kelly (lindakelly@cox.net)
Nominating Committee Chair: Ginger Broussard (Gin1paul@AOL.com)

At Large Members

Darlene Shepherd - Membership (dshep@mahaska.org)
Cindy Wright – Annual Conference (cindywright@cox.net)
Rev. Carla Gentry – Certification Leader (clgentry@kc.rr.com)
Rev. Mike Fonfara – *PNN Network News* Editor (mikefonfara@tampabay.rr.com)

Ginny Nyhuis – Administrative Staff (gnyhuis@verizon.net)

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

POAMN Network News
P.O. Box 700311
Oostburg, WI 53070

PRSRRT STD
U.S. Postage
PAID
Louisville, KY
Permit No. 990