

POAMN Network News

Resource Guide for Older Adult Ministries

ISSUE 2

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Presbyterian
Older Adult
Ministries



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Inside this issue:

Editor's Comments	1
April's Annual Conference	2
Websites Worth Visiting	2
Presbytery News	3
Membership Application	3
Book Review	4
Ideas that Work	5
An Irish Blessing for St. Patrick's Day	5
Prayer for a Fresh Start	6

EDITOR'S COMMENTS

Dear Readers,

Anticipation about POAMN's annual conference in April grows every day! "Leaving a Living Legacy" promises plenty of ideas to take home, memories of fun times, and practical life enhancements for self, family, church, and community. Please read further into this newsletter for more information about the annual conference.

POAMN Network News serves as a catalogue of resources for older adult ministries in many different settings. Thanks to all the readers who sent in ideas and articles for this issue. Many of these contributions highlight the included columns. Credit is given wherever possible. Thanks again, and please start thinking about your contributions for the May, 2008 issue.

Planning ahead for May's *PNN* issue, the focus topics will highlight listening skills for those involved in older adult ministries and summertime program resources. If you have some ideas, experiences, curriculum, websites, social activities, prayers, poems, or other contributions that add knowledge and interest to these focus topics, please send them to me (mikefonfara@sbcglobal.net) for inclusion into the newsletter. **The deadline for receiving *PNN* contributions for the May issue is April 15th.** Thank you for your help in making the newsletter a real resource for older adult ministries!

Readers, please enjoy a blessed Lent, Easter, and early weeks of Spring. I'll see you in St. Louis!

Your *PNN* editor,

Mike Fonfara

Celebrate Older Adult Week!

May 4-10 is designated by the PC(U.S.A.) as a time to recognize and honor older adults and their commitment to the life, witness, and ministry of the church. The 2008 Older Adult Ministries Planning Guide will soon be ready to help plan activities for Older Adult Week. Contact Ginny Nyhuis now to reserve your copy: gnyhuis@verizon.net or 615-426-1545.

APRIL'S ANNUAL CONFERENCE

by Mike Fanfara

The word is out! POAMN's annual conference "Leaving a Living Legacy" is a must attend for anyone connected with older adult ministries in any capacity. Participants can anticipate a successful event. Great speakers, enthusiastic workshop leaders, inspiring worship pastors, and the like are rarin' to go. You're invited. Please be there!

POAMN people will gather in St. Louis' "Marriott St. Louis West" hotel from April 22nd through April 25th for all the festivities and fellowship. Since the highlights are too many to list in this newsletter, please see the brochure and registration materials on POAMN's website at: www.poamn.org.

Since most people need to know the cost upfront. Here are the facts:

Conference Fee: (POAMN Member)	\$200
Conference Fee: (Non-Member)	\$250
(Point: You can save money by joining POAMN! Membership fees may cost less than \$50. See the brochure. Join now!)	

Attending from Same Church	Save \$10 each!
Late Fee (after 2/29/08)	\$25
Marriott St. Louis West (Double)	\$295/person
Marriott St. Louis West (Single)	\$480/person

POAMN offers partial scholarships for first-time attendees. See the brochure for more information. Also, please contact your church, presbytery, and synod to see if they offer scholarships.

If you are interested in earning a certificate in older adult ministry, please contact the Certification Coordinator, Rev. Vickie Kintzel at: pastorvickiek@yahoo.com.

Please note that there are side trips, such as a "Branson Show Getaway," available at additional costs.

Well, you get the idea. Get a brochure or register on-line. It's going to be a good and productive event! So ... "See you in St. Louie, Louie (or Louise)!"

WEBSITES WORTH VISITING



The Editor thinks that the following websites have some value for POAMN

members and older adults who like to visit quality Internet offerings. If you have some favorite sites, please let Mike Fonfara (mikefonfara@sbcglobal.net) know about them.

1. The PC(USA) site (www.pcusa.org) highlights many articles on our denomination's mission program, people in the news, and issues facing our church.
 2. Looking for an interesting Christian education curriculum? Take a look at *Bible Quest*, an ecumenical curriculum designed to share the Gospel. If interested, please contact **Michael Purinton** at Congregation Ministry Publishing at **888-728-7228, x 5192** or curriculum@ctr.pcusa.org. This program is endorsed by the denomination.
 3. Would you enjoy reading a daily devotional from Billy Graham? www.billygraham.org/dailydevotional.asp offers a new meditation by the famed evangelist every day. This website is sponsored by The Billy Graham Evangelistic Association.
 4. www.journeytothecross.org is a fantastic daily devotional website sponsored by the PC (USA), The Episcopal Church, and the Cooperative Baptist Church. The format is easy and a little on the contemplative side. The devotions are prepared for adults of all ages. Visit the site and see if you like it.
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PRESBYTERY NEWS

Barbara Baker of Philadelphia Presbytery invites all POAMN people to consider attending their springtime conference on models of ministry with older adults. (Thanks, Barbara!)

I am moderator of our Presbytery's Older Adult Ministries and we are planning a one-day event on Thursday, April 17 at the Presbyterian Church of Chestnut Hill. Although I still have one workshop spot to fill, here is the basic information:

Title: MODELS for MINISTRY: Creative Programs for and with Older Adults.

Date: April 17, 2008, 9:00 a.m. to 3:15 p.m.
Place: Presbyterian Church of Chestnut Hill, 8855 Germantown Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19118.

Keynote Speaker: Director of the Delaware County Area Agency on Aging.

Workshops: Developing an older adult ministry; developing a health ministry (parish nursing); developing congregational care teams; skills for visiting the sick and homebound; developing a caregiver support group; identifying and addressing elder abuse; transitioning seniors to higher levels of care.

All of our workshop presenters are professionals who have credentials and experience. A brochure will be ready for distribution sometime in February. Registration fee is \$20 and includes refreshments, lunch and handouts.

For more information: Barbara Baker at 215-699-9356 or bkbaker99@verizon.net.

Everyone is the age of his or her heart.
[Guatemalan Proverb]

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): _____

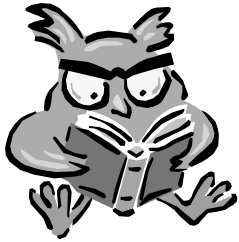
Membership Type:

- \$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



BOOK REVIEW

Many thanks to POAMN Board Member-at-Large Rev. Carla Gentry for the following book review. (Thanks, Carla!)

Donald Koepke, Ed. *Ministering to Older Adults: The Building Blocks*. Binghamton, NY: The Haworth Pastoral Press, 2007.

This book is a great contribution to the field of Religious Gerontology and Older Adult Ministry. This book is a collection of articles that have been simultaneously published as the *Journal of Religion, Spirituality, and Aging* (Vol 17. 2/4 2005). To quickly summarize this book it is broken up into three parts. Part one provides the pastor or Older Adult Ministry leader the tools necessary to determine if their congregation is prepared to develop a wholistic Older Adult Ministry. If a congregation already has an Older Adult Ministry or Programs for Older Adults, Chapter four is especially helpful in that it provides tools to assess or evaluate an existing Older Adult Ministry program. The Assessment tools are field tested. These foundational chapters also provide concrete examples of what has worked and what hasn't worked in starting an Older Adult Ministry that reach beyond the antidotal in that they provide documented peer reviewed research to back up the claims made by the authors. The inclusion of current research as support for the practical application of ministry activities is one of the book's strengths.

What I found most helpful was the thorough explanation of the four steps necessary to begin a wholistic Older Adult Ministry or assessing an exiting program and how the second part of the book builds on these four steps to build/provide a solid program that will build upon the six basic spiritual needs of Older Adults as defined by the editor and contributors. The

greatest strength of this book is that it does not ignore the spiritual needs of elders, in fact this book helps the pastor or Older Adult Leader see how many existing activity programs may meet psychological or social needs often miss the real spiritual needs of elders. The depth and breadth of spiritual needs that elders face are address and the authors provide concrete resources that will assist Older Adult Ministries at all levels to more effectively meet these needs. The editor and authors identify the following as the six basic spiritual needs of Older Adults (spiritual development, the need for continued learning, the need to serve, the need to be served, the need for quality pastoral care, and the need for community). These six needs have often not been clearly identified in previous literature in the field and the manner in which individual chapters explain and elaborate on these needs and how a wholistic Older Adult Ministry will meet these needs is a breath of fresh air to the literature in the field.

Part three provides the theoretical underpinnings and a practical planning grid tool that will allow existing Older Adult Ministry programs to examine their current program for their effectiveness in meeting the six spiritual needs of Older Adults. Part Three also summarizes the process and needs of an effective ministry that can be used to build a solid program from the ground up.

This book is easy to read and implement and is recommended as a useful tool for those wishing to evaluate their current Older Adult Ministry programs or for persons wishing to explore the development of an Older Adult Ministry in their congregation.

To be seventy years young is sometimes more cheerful and hopeful than to be forty years old.
[Oliver Wendell Holmes]

IDEAS THAT WORK

Elder Earl Arend from the First Presbyterian Church in Sturgis, MI sends us this program idea that is working well in his parish. (Thanks, Earl!)

As a Elder I was appointed in 2007 to develop an organization which would appeal and serve those in our congregation (and guests) 55 or older. Calling it the V.I.P.S. (Very Important Presbyterian Seniors) we began in January with 35 in attendance and since then averaged 48 for the 2007 year.

With a grant of \$1000 from our Lake Michigan Presbytery (Emerging Ministries) we had a variety of programs appealing to both men and women from gardening to antique autos.

We meet the fourth Thursday of each month at 11:30 A.M. at our church. We have a luncheon and then a 30 minute program.

Many thanks to POAMN Board Member Rev. Tom Tickner for the following Lenten program suggestions. (Thanks, Tom!)

As Chaplain at Grace Presbyterian Village in Dallas, TX, here are some programs that I have done during Lent.

This year for Lent I will use Kerygma study of Handel's Messiah. Because the material is small print residents of our facility do not read for themselves before each study. During the study I use the lessons as laid out in the study but adapt them for my situation. This has been well received, as participants enjoy listening to the music and also finding the scriptural background to go with the music.

During Lent I have also done a study on the Lord's Prayer. In worship I have done several sermon series on themes and residents have

appreciated that being carried out through Easter Sunday. We have regular worship, so that can be done here at Grace.

This year, I am also putting together for the first time a Lenten Booklet which will have scriptures and two reflective questions for each day during Lent.

An Irish Blessing for St. Patrick's Day



May God grant you always ...
A sunbeam to warm you,
a moon beam to charm you,
a sheltering angel so nothing can harm you,
laughter to cheer you,
faithful friends near you,
and whatever you pray Heaven to hear you.

Quips and Quotes

Some people, no matter how old they get,
never lose their beauty – they merely
move it from their faces into their hearts.
[Martin Buxbaum]

Years may wrinkle the skin,
but to give up enthusiasm wrinkles the soul.
[Samuel Ullman]

Wrinkles should merely indicate
where smiles have been.
[Mark Twain, *Following the Equator*]

I still have a full deck;
I just shuffle a little slower now.
[Author Unknown]

A PRAYER FOR A FRESH START

Since everyday is a new beginning, please consider
Tommy Newberry's "A Prayer for a Fresh Start"
(from Newberry's book *The 4:8 Principle*).

Dear heavenly Father,

Thank you for new beginnings!

Infuse me today with a fresh dose of your Holy Spirit,
and fill me with thoughts that strengthen my character and cause me to grow fully
into the image you intended for me when you brought me into this world.

Help me to preoccupy my mind with thoughts of you,
with thoughts that are pure, true, lovely, and worthy of praise.

Heighten my awareness so that my thinking doesn't unconsciously drift
into the negative, limiting, and counterproductive patterns that snare so many.

Protect me from the temptations to complain, condemn, or focus on what's wrong with things.

Instead, elevate my thinking and open my eyes so that I see your presence in all situations.

I want to appreciate the abundance that surrounds me and activate the joy that is hidden within me,

In Jesus' name,

Amen.

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