

April, 2003

Dear Pastors and Clerks of Session,

We invite you to participate in the 2003 Mother's Day/Father's Day Offering to support Older Adult Ministries in the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic. Why?

***In the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic, older adults make up a fourth of all members***, and in two-thirds of the presbyteries in the Mid-Atlantic, a majority of the congregations have more than one-fourth of their members aged 65+ years. The sharp growth among members aged 35-54, reflecting the aging of the baby boomers, portends a surge in older Presbyterians beginning roughly a decade from now.

***Some*** implications for our congregations:

- A need for education about healthy, normal aging as well as signs of abnormal aging
- An increased need for pastoral care and congregational care giving
- Opportunities for life-long learning and discipleship, evangelism, and stewardship
- Need for successful life review and preparation for end of life
- Enhanced accessibility – to name only a few....

By participating in the Mother's Day/Father's Day Offering, you are helping us provide education, training, and advocacy for ministry with, by, for, and to elders and their family members, our congregations and presbyteries throughout the Mid-Atlantic region. A camera-ready bulletin insert and minute for mission are enclosed for your convenience. We suggest that contributions be made to your church, and that each congregation send its contribution to the Synod office: Synod of the Mid-Atlantic, PO Box 27026, Richmond, VA 23261-7026.

As you celebrate Mother's Day and Father's Day this year, we hope you celebrate ALL the elders in your pews, for as the Psalmist says, *In old age they still produce fruit; they are always green and full of sap* Ps. 92:14

In His Service,

Helen J. Napps, Chair  
Chair, Older Adult Ministries Committee

Jan L. McGilliard  
Associate for Older Adult Ministries