

**Mid-Atlantic OAMNews**  
October-November, 2004

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**Mid-Atlantic OAMNews** – is a bi-monthly e-newsletter dedicated to the promotion of spiritual health and well-being of older adults and their families – offering information, resources, model ministries, stories, and humor! Visit our web-site at [www.synatlantic.org](http://www.synatlantic.org) and click on Older Adult Ministries. Jan McGilliard, Editor

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**A Future OAM Network?????**

Little if any mission funding will be available to fund Shared Ministries proposals in 2005, of which the Older Adult Ministries Network is one. The OAM proposal may be seen on the web site under OAM Committee. (need link) A “bare bones” budget of \$15,000 would allow an OAM Network to meet annually, maintain the OAM web site, communicate, and carry out collaborative projects. **To reach this goal, congregations are asked to consider a year-end contribution and a line item in their budgets for 2005 and beyond to support the work of a network intended to benefit congregations directly.** The letter to congregations can be viewed at this website! [www.civic.bev.net/oam](http://www.civic.bev.net/oam) - click on OAM Committee.



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**G.A. Task Force on OAM Convenes**

The General Assembly Task Force on Older Adult Ministries met in August to begin the work of envisioning the future of this important ministry. Please keep them in your prayers as they research issues of aging and the church, current and future trends, recommend priorities, and more. Donna Coffman and Jan McGilliard represent the Mid-Atlantic region.

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**Autumn at Massanetta: October 18-21 Adult Conference**

**"When Salvation Surprises - Exploring the Gospel of Luke"**

Bible Study Leader is Dr. John Carroll, currently the Harriet Robertson Fitts Memorial Professor of New Testament at Union-PSCE, Richmond, VA. Worship Leader is Rev. Sarah Hill, newly ordained and serving Broadway Presbyterian Church. For more information go to: [http://www.massanettasprings.org/adult\\_conference.html](http://www.massanettasprings.org/adult_conference.html)



**Come on down to the POAMN Conference in Daytona Beach, FL!!! This is the annual conference of our national network.**

October 27-30: **Annual POAMN Conference** (Presbyterian Older Adult Ministry Network). Theme: Pathway of Spiritual Growth: Thriving After 55. Location: El Caribe Resort and Conference Center in Daytona Beach, Florida. For more information go to: <http://www.pcusa.org/olderadults/events.htm>.

Whether you are a first time participant or a veteran in older adult ministry, you will find something exciting at this conference. The enthusiasm for OAM is contagious; the sharing of models and ideas engaging; the keynotes, worship, and workshops inspiring. Consider becoming a PROAM (Presbytery Representative for OAM) – training available at this conference.

**What's a PROAM???** – Presbytery Representative for Older Adult Ministries, connected to the national church through **POAMN – the Presbyterian Older Adult Ministries Network**. In the Mid-Atlantic these folks are known as Advocates of Aging, folks committed to educating, advocating, and consulting on issues of aging in congregations within their presbytery. An **ARMSS** Representative is presbytery representative connected to the **Association of Retired Ministers, Spouses, and their Survivors**, also a General Assembly network. Do you have PROAMNs and ARMSS Representatives in your presbytery? Are they actively involved?

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**Welcoming Spirit: Celebrating the Spirituality of Aging – Charlottesville, VA**

On Saturday and Sunday, November 13 & 14, community residents, family caregivers, professionals in aging services, health care workers and representatives from the faith community will convene for a weekend event focused on spirituality and aging issues and interests.

The **keynote speaker**, Jan McGilliard, currently Staff Associate for Older Adult Ministries, Synod of the Mid-Atlantic Presbyterian Church will lead the event on Saturday morning, November 13 with a keynote entitled ***Celebrating the Ageless Spirit.*** **Breakout sessions** will follow the address with specialized subjects including ***"Invoking the Spirit through Music," "Elder Empowerment," "Creative Aging through Creative Writing"*** and more.



**The following day**, Sunday, November 14, there will be an ecumenical and interfaith service followed by a celebration including a hot lunch and music. A brief service to honor elders' contributions in the community will close the weekend's events. Rev. Mary Dockery and Rev. Michael Cheuk are co-leaders for the Sunday activities.

**The event will be held at JABA**, 674 Hillsdale Drive, **Charlottesville**, VA. The event costs \$10 including all events on 11/13 & 14 and hot lunch on 11/14 (a bag lunch will be available for purchase on 11/13 or bring your own lunch). All community residents and persons from near and far are invited to register. For a detailed flyer and registration form or for more information on the event, please call (434) 817-5267.

If you have a story, poetry, a model ministry, concern, or event to share, please contact Jan McGilliard at 540-552-3233 or send her an e-mail at [jmccgill@bev.net](mailto:jmccgill@bev.net). Photos are a nice addition!

P.S. There will be one final issue of **OAMNews** in November. After 15 years of faithful service, the Synod's OAM Committee concludes its work at the end of this year. Jan McGilliard, Associate for OAM, will become an independent consultant in a new venture to be announced very soon. **Happy Autumn!!!**



Jan McGilliard, Editor