



Mid-Atlantic OAMNews

April 2003

This newsletter is sponsored by:
Synod of the Mid-Atlantic, PC(USA)
Sunnyside Communities
The Presbyterian Homes, Inc. of NC

Mid-Atlantic OAMNews – is a 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 and click on Older Adult Ministries. Jan McGilliard, Editor

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May is Older Adults Month: Prepare and Celebrate!!!

May is Older Adults Month in North America, and the Presbyterian Church (USA) calendar features Older Adult Week the first week of May. The General Assembly's Office on Aging produces an excellent planning guide each year, and you may view and download this resource from the following web page: <http://horeb.pcusa.org/olderadults/> or you may order the free planning guide from PDS at 1-800-524-2612. Order #7025003-717. The stated purpose of Older Adult Week is "to help congregations recognize aging as a natural part of living, involving life from birth to death, and to affirm the worth of persons in all stages of development and at all functional levels."

Mother's Day/Father's Day Offering 2003

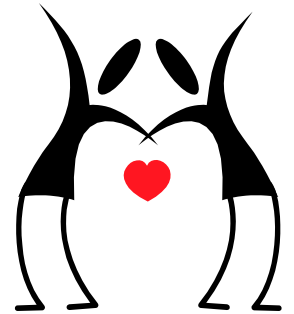
We invite all congregations to take part in this year's Mother's Day/Father's Day Offering sometime during the months of May and June. Contributions provide assistance for retirement community residents in need, and funds for the Synod's Older Adult Ministries program. If you are located in Baltimore, National Capital or New Castle Presbytery, you will



receive a letter, camera-ready bulletin insert, and minute for mission along with your May Synod Insert mailing. These materials are also posted on our web site at www.civic.bev.net/oam under Congregational Resources. Virginia Presbyteries will receive offering information from Sunnyside Retirement Communities, and North Carolina Presbyteries will receive information from The Presbyterian Homes, Inc. of North Carolina.

May Consultation on Older Adult Ministries

On May 5-6, a Synod consultation on the future of Older Adult Ministries will take place at Massanetta Springs Conference Center in Harrisonburg, Virginia. Delegations from each presbytery will participate in a time of learning, worship, and discernment about the potential for this ministry, dedicated to serving adults and their families around issues of aging and the church. We ask your prayers for all who take part in this important meeting of minds, hearts, and voices.



National Conferences Benefit Older Adult Ministries

Did you know?

- NCOA stands for National Council on the Aging
- ASA stands for American Society on Aging
- Each organization has a constituent group related to religion and aging
- NCOA has the National Interfaith Coalition on Aging (NICA)
- ASA has the Forum on Religion, Spirituality, and Aging (FORSA)
- NCOA and ASA now hold a joint conference, allowing NICA and FORSA groups to collaborate on programs and projects



In March, 3700 professionals and practitioners gathered in Chicago around the theme of ***Making Our world A Good Place to Grow Old***...featuring keynoters and workshops on 47 age-related topics, site visits, awards, and networking opportunities. It is almost too much to take in...but it is the intent of this e-newsletter to share the models and



connections offered at this meeting. St. Patrick's Day in Chicago was pretty amazing, too! Go to www.ncoa.org and www.asaging.org to learn more about the programs of these organizations. See NCOA Week and Global Aging, regularly featured on our web site.

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God of All Ages Retreat a Success!!!

Thirty fun-loving grownups gathered for fun, fellowship, learning, worship, and entertainment for a first-time retreat for adults at Massanetta Springs Conference Center at the end of March. Rev. Collier Harvey led us in worship with his inimitable combination of thoughtfulness and good humor...Dr. Hayden Hollingsworth of Second Presbyterian Church in Roanoke brought the Old Testament right into our everyday lives as he led our Bible study...Dr. Craig Stein of Richmond, VA tackled the excellent study paper entitled *Hope in the Lord Jesus Christ* published by the PC(USA). Annette Sparks taught us how to sing the Psalms; Robin Hogle led a session on prison ministry; Jan McGilliard offered Rockin' and Resourcing about adult ministries in our congregations. "Sound Direction" sang tunes from every decade from the 20's to 2000, and Virginia Bethune, Harper, taught us about the benefit of harp music in healing ministries. Mark your calendars now and plan to bring a carload to the next adult retreat at Massanetta, October 21-23!



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Upcoming Events

Don't forget the Skills in Older Adult Ministry Conference at Montreat Conference Center, May 12-16: *Strength for Today and Bright Hope for Tomorrow*, featuring Keynoter Lois Hayman-El, training specialist with the Philadelphia Corporation for Aging. Lois is an elder at First African Presbyterian Church and is moderator of the Older Adult Ministries Resource Team for the Presbytery of Philadelphia. Workshops include: From "Doing" to "Being"; Come Care Through Clay; Telling Your Story; Older Adult Needs Assessment in the Local Church; From "Caregiving" to "Care-receiving." To register, contact Montreat Conference Center at 1-800-572-2257 or visit their website at www.montreat.org.

May 12-14 – 21st Annual Seminar on Older Persons, presented by The Southwest Virginia Training Consortium. This is an excellent event held at Virginia Highlands Community College in Abingdon, VA. Four keynoters, 14 workshops, and 6 intensives offered. Abingdon is a great place to visit and this is an excellent conference at a nominal cost. *Registrations must be received by May 1.* If you wish a copy of the brochure, contact Jan McGilliard at 540-552-3233 or e-mail: jmcgill@bev.net.

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News from our Retirement Communities

SAILL Program Benefits Scotia Residents – SAILL stands for St. Andrews Institute for Lifelong Learning, a program that provides opportunities for area citizens to continue interactive learning in a variety of ways, as well as to enjoy social activities. It is open to all residents over age 50 in Scotland County and is offered at a nominal cost of \$25/person or \$35/couple per semester. Scotia Village served a kick-off brunch for the spring season. Courses include: *Wit and Wisdom...In Poetry and Otherwise*; *Cooking for You or Two*; *Modern Issues in Mental Illness*; *the Poetry of Popular Music*; and *Nature Walks and Talks*. There is a special relationship between St. Andrews Presbyterian College and Scotia Village – they are connected by a footpath!

Don't miss the March/April issue of ***Church & Society***, Presbyterian Church (USA), entitled ***Encircling Care: A New Vision for Congregational Caregiving***. It provides an excellent overview of caregiving trends and expectations, a history of the Care Team movement and the theological resources for this concept, stories of congregational caregiving, and more. Order your copy today from PDS at 1-800-524-2612, Order #PDS 72-630-02-602. Single copies cost \$2.50.

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Encircling Care: A New Vision for Congregational Caregiving

Rabbi Richard Address has described caregiving as a *new life stage*, one in which we will all participate and a road that every congregation will travel. He also describes caregiving as *sacred work*. Most of us don't volunteer for this new life stage, but it has the potential for spiritual growth and transformation for both care giver and care receiver. Rosalyn Carter says there are four kinds of people: those who are care givers, those who will be care givers, those who receive care, and those who will receive care. That's pretty comprehensive!

Louisville Seminary was the site for a collaborative effort to bring together an excellent array of experts and an equally-talented audience of practitioners in areas of older adult ministries, health ministries, pastoral care, and parish nursing for a conference entitled ***Encircling Care: A New Vision for Congregational Caregiving***. Most of us were hungry for information, inspiration, down to earth "how-to do it" models, networking, and resources for a ministry that will no doubt be equal to mission in the life of the church within the next ten years and for many years to come. Just as I have suggested the March/April issue of ***Church & Society***, be on the lookout for the May/June issue. It will contain the proceedings of this excellent conference and will act as a follow-up to the earlier publication. It is the best way I know of to adequately share the experience and content of this conference with interested readers. So be an armchair participant with the help of a very helpful and inexpensive publication: ***Church & Society***. *Encircling Care* was a collaboration of Health Ministries, USA, Presbyterian Homes and Services of Kentucky, Inc., and Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary.

Book Review

Aging, Spirituality and Pastoral Care: A Multi-National Perspective, edited by the Rev. Elizabeth MacKinlay, James W. Ellor & Stephen Pickard (Binghamton, N.Y.: Haworth Pastoral Press, 2001); paperback, 263 pages; \$24.95 Reviewed by Patricia K.

Suggs, director of the Appalachian Geriatric Education Center at the Wake Forest University School of Medicine, Winston-Salem, NC.

The need for meaning and the search for it are the common threads that run throughout **Aging, Spirituality and Pastoral Care: Multi-National Perspective**, a well-written and practical anthology. The book grew out of an international conference held in Australia (Ageing, Spirituality and Pastoral Care in the 21st Century). The volume offers useful definitions of basic theological and philosophical concepts; thoughtful discussions of such issues faced by older adults as failure to thrive, isolation and loneliness, sexuality, and dementia. I found Malcolm Goldsmith's essay, "Through a Glass Darkly: A Dialogue Between Dementia and Faith," particularly beneficial. The author makes reference to the gospel message that God speaks to us through the marginalized, including those with dementia: "It may well be that God chooses to reveal the very heart of the mystery of life and of love through the vulnerability of the person from whom pride and pretence has been stripped away." David Moberg comments that this volume deserves "a prominent place as a required textbook in theological schools and as enlightening supplemental reading to enrich human service scholars, scientists, and professionals."

Editor's note: This book is for the person who really wants to dig in!

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Jan McGilliard, Editor