

Older Adult Ministries EVENTS

If you are sponsoring an event for older adult ministries and would like your event listed in the next issue of the Center newsletter, please send your information to the Center on Aging by July 1.

April 24-27, 2001

Rivers of Faith – National Adult Ministries Leadership Training Event

Four Points Sheraton Hotel, San Antonio, TX
Contact: Lori Whitehurst,
Toll-free 877-899-2780 Ext. 7176
Fax: 615-340-7071
Email: lwhitehurst@gbod.org
Website: www.riversoffaith.org

May 4-6, 2001

Jubilation 2001 – Older Adult Ministry Event Sponsored by the Holston Conference

The Grand Hotel, Pigeon Forge, TN
Contact: Sarah Dunsmore
2013 S. Belmont Dr., Maryville, TN 37804
or Holston Conference Office
Phone: 423-929-1481

July 13-15, 2001

8th International Congress of UMMen Gathering of United Methodist Men

Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN
Contact: Larry Malone, National Director
PO Box 340006, Nashville, TN 37203-0006
Phone: 615-340-7145
Fax: 615-340-1770

August 13-16, 2001

Southeast Jurisdiction Association of Older Adults Gathering of Older Adults and Leaders of Older Adult Ministries

Lake Junaluska, NC
Contact: SEJ Older Adult Conference
PO Box 188, Lake Junaluska, NC 28745
Phone: 888-525-3586

September 13-15, 2001

Senior Summit

Gathering of Older Adults and Leaders of Older Adult Ministries

Mount Sequoyah, AR
Contact: Mount Sequoyah Program Center
150 NW Skyline Drive, Fayetteville, AR 72701
Phone: 501-443-4531 or Fax: 501-443-4569
Email: mail@montsequoyah.org

September 14-15, 2001

Semi-Annual Meeting of the United Methodist Committee on Older Adult Ministries

Scarritt-Bennett Center, Nashville, TN
Contact: Teri Kline, Assistant to the Director
Center on Aging & Older Adult Ministries
PO Box 340003, Nashville, TN 37203-0003
Phone: 877-899-2780 Ext. 7177
Fax: 615-340-7071
Email: tkline@gbod.org

September 27, 2001

Conference on Aging Sponsored by Asbury United Methodist Church Bettendorf, IA

Contact: Rev. Carl Klein, D. Min.
406 Mast, Wayland, IA 52654
Phone: 319-256-6161

October 5-6, 2001

Growing Older Boldly Sponsored by the Pacific Northwest Conference

Contact: E. Edward Peeples
1431 11th Avenue, SE, Olympia, WA 98501
Phone: 360-753-9123
Email: epeep@juno.com

October 17-18, 2001

Conference on Aging Sponsored by the California-Pacific Conference A Training Event for Leaders of Older Adult Ministries in the Southern California Area

Contact: Jean Carr
Phone: 714-997-5064

The General Board of Discipleship of
The United Methodist Church
Center on Aging & Older Adult Ministries
P. O. Box 340003
Nashville, TN 37203-0003
www.aging-umc.org

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ADULT
MINISTRY



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FORTY-SIXTY

A Study for Midlife Adults Who Want to Make a Difference
By Richard H. Gentzler, Jr. & Craig Kennet Miller

Designed to be used individually or in a small group, *Forty-Sixty* identifies 10 significant issues many people in their 40s, 50s, and 60s face as they experience midlife. Drawing on scripture, Gentzler and Miller help individuals understand the problems of midlife and suggest ways to cope constructively. Each chapter explores a midlife issue and includes a Bible study guide to enable the reader to draw upon God's word and wisdom for direction and meaning.

Issues addressed in this study include:

- Myths & realities
- Children, parents, & grandchildren
- Pre-retirement and work
- Relationships
- Aging parents
- Losses
- Life-long learning
- Spirituality
- Death & the afterlife
- Giving back to the community

Each session focuses on one of the 10 issues through background information, discussion questions, biblical reflection, guidance for integrating what has been learned into daily life, and helps for the leader.

(DR325) ISBN 0-88177-325-5
64 pages; \$12.95

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Also available from Cokesbury: (800) 672-1789

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Center Sage

A publication of the
Center on Aging & Older Adult Ministries

Issue 1
Spring 2001

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Center on Aging & Older Adult Ministries

Center Staff

Richard H. Gentzler, Jr., Director
Teri Kline, Assistant to the Director

THE GENERAL BOARD OF
DISCIPLESHIP
THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

P.O. Box 340003
Nashville, TN 37203-0003
Phone: 877-899-2780 Ext. 7177
Fax: 615-340-7071
Email: rgentzler@gbod.org
Website: www.aging-umc.org

A New Resource for You

WELCOME to a new and exciting resource—one that will challenge, engage, and inform you. *Center Sage*, published by the Center on Aging & Older Adult Ministries, is designed as a vital link in communication for leaders interested in aging issues and older adult ministries. Our goal is to publish two issues a year (spring and fall). *Center Sage* will feature informative articles about a variety of older adult ministry concerns, upcoming training events, new resource information, suggested models for ministry, and opportunities for you to share your ideas with other readers.

10 Ways to Involve Older Adults in Ministry

by Richard H. Gentzler, Jr., D.Min., Director,
Center on Aging & Older Adult Ministries

As a leader of older adult ministries, I find involving older adults in ministry to be an exciting yet sometimes difficult challenge. We hear older adults say, "I have done my part," or "It's time to get others (*younger people?*) involved," or "I'm too old." While we always want to encourage and equip leaders of all ages, we certainly don't want the faith, wisdom, and experience that often abound in older adults to be lost or underutilized. The following ten ideas are simple, yet effective, ways of inviting and involving older adults in ministry.

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Perhaps you can add your ideas to this list.

1. Develop a shared vision for ministry with older adults. Share your vision and invite older adults to share their vision. Have a "meeting of the minds."
2. Involve older adults in the decision-making process. Ask them what they think. Older adults have lots of experience and knowledge to share.
3. Invite older adults to become active participants in the ministry. Help them integrate their faith in their daily life.
4. Say "Thank you!" Find ways to express your appreciation for the ministry of older adults . . . a postcard or note, an email message, or . . . a dinner with a special Recognition Service.
5. Keep older adults informed. Use regular newsletters to make them feel important. Post information on an older adult ministries bulletin board in an area of the church where

- older adults normally congregate. Develop an older adult ministries website.
6. Pick up the phone or stop by for a visit. Make sure older adults know how important they are to the ministry of the church.
7. Never forget a birthday. Birthday cards, postcards, and email greetings mean a lot.
8. Greet older adults with a smile. It may seem trivial but greeting older adults with a warm welcome and big smile helps establish a positive tone for ministry.
9. Involve older adults in learning opportunities. Invite them to learn about new ideas and resources for ministry. Older adults want to continue learning, and your willingness to help says that you value them.
10. Engage older adults in prayer and Bible study. Allow God's Word to excite and invite older adults into discipleship.

MORE about the Center on Aging & Older Adult Ministries

Many of you received the fall/winter 2000 (issue #8) of *Information: Adult Ministries* newsletter. In it you read that the General Conference meeting May 2-12, 2000, in Cleveland, OH, adopted legislation approving a Comprehensive Plan for Older Adult Ministries. In an effort to help the UM Committee on Older Adult Ministries carry out the initiatives of the Comprehensive Plan, the General Board of Discipleship established the **Center on Aging & Older Adult Ministries**.

Founded on the principle that ongoing faith development of midlife and older adults is critical for the transformation of the world, the vision of the Center is:

A church environment where the wisdom, skills, experience, and faith which often abound in midlife and older adults are being intentionally developed and fully utilized.



The Center staff includes Richard H. Gentzler, Jr., D.Min., Director, and Teri Kline, Assistant to the Director.

If you wish to modify your address on our mailing list, submit an article, or publicize an event, please complete the following:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone w/ area code: _____ Fax w/ area code: _____ Email: _____

Change of address Remove me from mailing list I am receiving duplicate copies

Other: _____

I want to submit an article for publication in *Center Sage* on: _____

I have an older adult ministries event I want to publicize in *Center Sage*: _____

Please detach and mail to Teri Kline, Assistant, Center on Aging & Older Adult Ministries, PO Box 340003, Nashville, TN 37203-0003, or fax to (615) 340-7071.

United Methodist Committee on Older Adult Ministries

On February 9 and 10, the United Methodist Committee on Older Adult Ministries met in Nashville, TN. The Committee, composed of members and staff from various United Methodist boards and agencies (see ¶1119, *Book of Discipline 2000*), elected new officers for 2001-04.

Chair:
Shirley Painter, Kennewick, Washington

Vice Chair:
Julius A. Archibald, Jr., Plattsburgh, New York

Recording Secretary:
Hazel C. Bennett, Greenwood, South Carolina

Resources Committee Chair:
James F. Fox, Bellefonte, Pennsylvania

Emerging Issues Committee Chair:
Emmy Lou John, Aurora, Illinois

Legislation Committee Chair:
Julius A. Archibald, Jr.

Grants Committee Chair:
Donald Williams, Hudsonville, Michigan



United Methodist Committee on Older Adult Ministries

Objectives: The Committee provides a forum for information sharing, cooperative planning, and joint program endeavors among the various boards and agencies. It also serves as an advocate for older adult concerns and supports ministries by, with, and for older adults throughout The United Methodist Church and in the larger society.

Responsibilities of the Committee for 2001-04:

1. Identify the needs, concerns, and potential contributions of older adults.
2. Promote a comprehensive plan for older adult ministry among annual conferences and local congregations.
3. Support the development of resources that undergird local church ministries with older adults.

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Certificate in Older Adult Ministries

The Center on Aging & Older Adult Ministries is helping to promote a new certificate program at Wesley Theological Seminary, Washington, DC. WTS, one of thirteen United Methodist-related seminaries, has begun a Certificate Program in Older Adult Ministries, consisting of six courses – three track and three core courses. Each course is 2 semester hours of credit. Courses include Aging from a Theological Perspective, Planning Comprehensive Ministry with Older Adults, Biblical Foundations for Ministry, and

Pastoral Care with Older Adults. Faculty members include Dr. Mary Alice Edwards, Dr. Richard H. Gentzler, Jr., Dr. Sam Lee, Dr. Susan Willhauck, and others. Each course is held one weekend a month for three months. Scholarship money is also available. For more information, contact:

Dr. Susan Willhauck
Director of Certification Programs
Wesley Theological Seminary
4500 Massachusetts Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20016
Phone: 202-885-6482
Fax: 202-885-8605

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4. Advocate for older adult concerns and issues.
5. Educate and keep before the Church the lifelong process of aging, with emphasis on the quality of life, intergenerational understanding, and faith development.
6. Encourage the development of resources and programs that can be used by annual conferences in training and equipping older adults for new roles in ministry.
7. Serve as focal point for supplying information and guidelines on older adult ministries to local churches.
8. Encourage coordination among the various boards and agencies of The United Methodist Church in developing resources, programs, and policies related to older adult ministries.

Grants: The United Methodist Committee on Older Adult Ministries is preparing guidelines for providing grant money to annual conferences and local



From left to right: Ben Orr, Louise Thomas, and Julius Archibald.



From left to right: Zella Jackson, Shirley Painter, and Hazel Bennett.

congregations. General Conference authorized helping to fund older adult ministry projects in both congregations and annual conferences. When the guidelines become available, information about obtaining grants will be made available through this newsletter and on the Center website.

For more information about the work and ministry of the United Methodist Committee on Older Adult Ministries contact:

Shirley Painter, Chair
UM Committee on Older Adult Ministries
3501 S. Fisher Ct.
Kennewick, WA 99337-2565
Phone: 509-586-5617
Email: cnspainter@hotmail.com

Richard H. Gentzler, Jr., Director
Center on Aging & Older Adult Ministries
P.O. Box 340003
Nashville, TN 37203-0003
Phone: 877-899-2780 ext.7173
Email: rgentzler@gbod.org