

The Older Adult Ministry Team through its many endeavors seeks to service the needs of adults, age 55 and over at WMSUMC. To better help us discern what God's will may be for this mission, we have planned an Older Adult Team retreat. The retreat is scheduled for March 22nd and 23rd at St. Francis Springs Prayer Center near Stoneville, NC.

The retreat will provide an opportunity for focus on mission, planning, fellowship, and fun. Each Older Adult Team member has been given a copy of Beth Crissman's book, *Stepping in the Stream Learning to Relate to the Will of God*. This book is to be a resource for personal devotion and meditation in preparation for the March retreat.

Crissman says that "Since God calls us in the context of community, it is also essential to acknowledge that there will be challenges and blessings as we learn to be and do together. As community committed to living into God's will, we must go through a process of becoming and working as a group or team. Together, we must learn Who we are, Whose we are, and What it is God is calling us to do."

Using *Stepping in the Stream...*, Bill Ellison will lead us and focus on Chapters 7,8,9,and 10.

In further endeavors, the WMSUMC Older Adult Team hosted the First Presbyterian Older Adult Team for lunch and Tuesday music on Dec. 2nd. The two teams shared ideas and discussed the possibility of working together on some older adult events. Future meetings with the First Presbyterian Older Adult Team are planned.

Focusing on mission, your Older Adult Ministry Team hopes to create a vision to carry us into the future.



"Be still, and know that I am God..."
Psalm 46:10

Happy New Year,

Mary Belle and Charles Gilbert

Co-coordinators of Older Adult Ministry

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The SENIORS Education Committee, chaired by Grey Wood, is responsible for working out the details for the March 22nd and 23rd retreat at St. Francis Conference Center.

The Committee's mission is to provide opportunities for personal enrichment that will enhance lives of older adults and help prepare them for life transitions.

In October, 2008, we visited the Billy Graham Library in Charlotte, NC. We learned how Rev. Graham progressed in his call to ministry, and how that call matured and changed as he grew older and as the culture changed.

United Methodist News Service

article by Kathy L. Gilbert
UMC- Nashville, TN
edited by Rev. Bill Ellison

The 2008 General Conference, the denomination's top lawmaking body, voted to add an Older Adult Recognition Day to the special observances on the Church's calendar. The day is to be observed annually, preferably during the month of May.

The day is intended to provide congregations with the opportunity to learn more about the issues and concerns related to aging and older adulthood.

The Committee on Older Adult Ministries - Board of Discipleship will have the responsibility for supervising and promoting the observance.

The most recent information from the U.S. Census Bureau shows that people are living longer, and by 2032, there will be 72 million people 65 year of age and older in the U.S.. The average United Methodist is 60 years old, according to the committee.

The General Church's plan for Older Adult Ministries for 2009-2012 will emphasize intergenerational and caregiving ministry. The Census Bureau projects that by 2030, there will be more older adults in the U.S. than children and youth combined. Intentional church-based caregiving will become more necessary as federal entitlements are cut and family structures change.

According to the comprehensive plan laid out by the Church Body, two hundred years ago people didn't retire, they just "worked until they wore out." Unless recent economic developments dictate otherwise, many more people will have 25-30 years post-retirement because of medical advances.

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“In many ways, we haven’t determined the modern purpose of a longer, healthier old age,” the Committee states in the Comprehensive Plan. “ To what use do we put the incredible resource of Elderhood? How do we help older adults continue to grow in faith as disciples of Jesus Christ? We need new models of old age for our coming maturity.”

Our SENIORS Intergenerational Committee asks that you mark your calendar for the Big Spring Follies Show, April 19th at 3:00 PM in the Church Fellowship Hall.

Intergenerational members have been active. Members have worked at the Dec. 13th UMC Christmas store and have participated in Church mission trips.

Kay Arthur, a member of our Committee, went to Guatemala in Oct. 2008 on the Church’s fourth medical mission trip. Kay got her first opportunity at being a dental assistant to Dr. Scott Cashion. Wow! She did it all from setting up his exam tray to making up hypodermic needles. She said Scott was a wonderful teacher and very patient with her as well as the many children they served.

Kay believes we are never too old to learn something new and recommends that we become involved and stay involved. She says we always receive more than we give. Thank-you Kay for the good work.

Sallie Ward phone: 299-0550
Chair – Intergenerational Committee

2009 Spring Home Bible Study



When: Wednesday Feb 25 - April 1

What Book: *Talking in the Dark*
By Dr. Steve Harper

What Topic: “Why should I keep on praying?”

Place & Time: Home of Melva Fraley
910 Avery Place
2:00-3:30 pm

Register: Call Susan Barnes
@ 275-4587

Note: Study is limited to 20 people.

Cost: Book is \$ 10.00 & comes with study schedule.

Questions: Call Charles Gilbert
@ 288-4664

Join the **Friendship Club** for:

Jan 26: “Art Tour of the Church” led by Faye Ellison

Feb 16: Grey Wood’s video of her trip to Hawaii

Mar 16: Mr. Dennis Toman will introduce us to ELDERLAW
Call Charles Gilbert @ 288-4664 to go on the call list.

The SENIORS Social Committee asks you to mark your calendars:

Jan. 23rd Tour of Weatherspoon Gallery and Lunch @ UNC-G Cafeteria

Feb. 12th Tapas Tasting at Solaris

Feb. 18th Trip to Seagrove Potteries and Lunch

Mid-Mar. Lunch or Dinner at GTCC Culinary Program

Apr. 5th Opera at Aycock Auditorium

Apr. 23rd Tour of the Duke Gardens and Lunch

Note Exact dates and plans may be changed. Please contact Wynn and Carol Pope @ 288-5489 or wjpopo1@bellsouth.net

Shepherd Center of Greensboro
Phone: 378-0766
e-mail: shepctrgrso@juno.com

The winter session of “Adventures in Learning” will be held each Thursday beginning Jan 15-Feb 19. We meet from 9:15 am- 2:30 pm @ Christ United Methodist Church on Holden Rd. This program provides enrichment and fellowship over a six week period offering 20 classes on a variety of subjects. Persons can create their own schedule and have lunch for \$6.00, if they choose. Registration for classes is \$20.00

Our Artistic Members



Betsy Holder

Greensboro artists, Jean Caudle and Betsy Holder, two West Market St. UMC members exhibited their art work in November 2008. The exhibit entitled “Elder Expressions” was on display at the Central Library in Greensboro. Jean exhibited a wood carving of Moses. Betsy exhibited a pastel portrait of an Indian Woman.

The exhibit was sponsored by the Center for Creative Aging in collaboration with the One City , One Book program. This display included participants in the “Adventures in Learning” program run by the Shepherd Center of Greensboro. Residents of the two Senior Living Centers and participants in classes at the Adult Center for Enrichment also contributed art for the exhibit.



Jean Caudle



Older Adult Calendar

Feb 10 Older Adult Team Meeting
Conference Rm 207 @ the Church

Mar 22-23 Older Adult Team
Planning Retreat @ St. Francis
Conference Center

Apr 26 Heritage Sunday Luncheon
in the Fellowship Hall