

PASTORAL CARE

As I write this article, it is a really beautiful day outside. It is the kind of day which, from the inside looking out, can be a bit deceptive. While the sky is blue and the sun is bright and warmly inviting, it is really quite cold. The temperature is hovering somewhere around 18 or 19 degrees. The wind is blowing, which makes the chill even more uncomfortable.



When you think about it, much of life is like that--not what it really appears to be as we observe it from a distance. It is only when we get involved that we really begin to experience the joys and the challenges which are presented. But being involved is where the real meaning and fulfillment is to be experienced.

As I reflect upon the Christmas Season and think about starting a new year, I am reminded in a very powerful way how God comes to us in so many unexpected and life-changing experiences. He wants from us a personal relationship which will change and alter the growth trajectory of our lives forever. When we enter into a relationship, we open ourselves to new experiences and accept new responsibilities. But that openness allows us to grow and become what God intended for us from the beginning. That is why He wants to be in relationship with us.

Each year as Christmas comes around for me, something new seems to happen in my life. The more involved I become in a personal relationship with God, the more I have come to experience the love and grace which flows outward from God. As I learn how to give more fully of myself, then I find that I have more to give because God had increased my capacity to give and receive what He has given so freely to me.

Christmas and the beginning of a new year are good times to reflect on the opportunities for growth which are offered to us. And these pivotal times give us an opportunity to renew our commitment to serving the One who loves us so much that He became one of us in the form of a little child who would grow up to give His very life to provide and show us the Way.

I hope Christmas and the beginning of a new year are providing for you the opportunity to reassess and renew your commitment to step out into new exciting opportunities for ministry.

— Bill Ellison

POPULAR BELTON JOYNER TO SPEAK AT WMSUMC



Across North Carolina, Belton Joyner is a well-known, well-loved and well-thought-of minister and speaker. A graduate of Duke with a doctorate from Drew University, Rev. Joyner has served a number of churches in the North Carolina Conference. The son of a Methodist Minister, Belton grew up in Siler City, which he still calls "home." His father was the senior pastor at First Methodist in Siler City, but died an early death at age 48, when Belton was just in the 7th grade. Once Belton finished college, his mother moved the family to Greensboro.

He served briefly as an associate pastor in New Jersey while he was finishing his degree. He returned south and began a series of appointments that included Wilmington, Raleigh, Mebane, and Durham, all in the Eastern NC Conference. For a while, he served as the Conference Director of Youth.

He maintains a lifelong interest in the relationship between music and worship/spirituality/evangelism. His topic will be, "Singing What We Believe." As with so many Duke Seminary graduates, Belton remains an ardent fan of all Duke athletics. In childhood, he developed an interest and loyalty to the St. Louis Cardinals, which remains with him today.

Reverend Joyner will be our guest on January 15 for the "Dinner...and, a Speaker" series, sponsored by the Education Sub-Committee of S.E.N.I.O.R.S. Any church member may attend. The program is not restricted to older adults. Guests are also welcome. We gather at 5:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall for a cup of Methodist punch, followed by dinner at 6 pm, then the speech. Reservations are required and may be made to Jeanne Shepherd at 275-45-87. The cost is \$10.00 per person, payable no later than January 11. Join us for a fun evening with a delightful speaker.

— Ethel Glenn

HOT DISH & HOPE

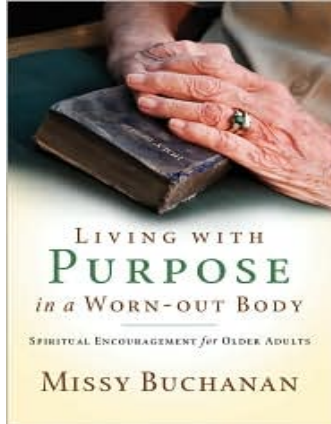
There is always a need for additional volunteers at Hot Dish & Hope. This meal, with a message of hope, is based at First Presbyterian Church. Many of those served are homeless. The typical volunteer commits to about an hour, starting between 5:30 and 6:30 p.m. on the 2nd Tuesday of each month. Please contact Linda Pritchett at 292-3875 or Karen Stahl at 558-7591 for more information.



A SOURCE OF INSPIRATION

I am always looking for resources for Older Adult Ministry and one of the writers that I enjoy is Missy Buchanan. I think you would find her book and her articles interesting. You can read her articles through her web page, missybuchanan.com/home.php

Missy Buchanan is the author of *Living with a Purpose in a Worn Out Body: Spiritual Encouragement for Older Adults*. A copy is in our Church Library. She writes about life's journey, faith, family, friends and especially older adults who need a dose of spiritual encouragement. Missy is a special contributor and columnist for *The United Methodist Reporter* and is the author of the upcoming *Talking With God in Old Age: Meditations and Psalms* (Upper Room Books). She is a member of First United Methodist Church in Rockwall, Texas.



The most recent article that I read was "Aging Well: Intergenerational Ministry Takes Relationship-building." She says that intergenerational ministry "requires churches to rethink the way they are doing current ministries," and that intergenerational ministry "is a way of being the church at its best." "Start small, if you must, to build relationships among the generations. Encourage young and old to serve alongside each other." Everyone from the youngest to the oldest is important to the congregation. It is through building personal relationships with each other that we can share our faith to glorify God and make, nurture and send forth disciples of Jesus Christ. In different areas of ministry at West Market young and old are serving together in meaningful ways. We are challenged to enhance that.

At West Market our Older Adult Team that meets monthly on the second Tuesday of each month is made up of persons interested and active in Older Adult Ministry including chairs of our S.E.N.I.O.R.S. Committees. **S** for Spiritual (John Coggins), **E** for Education (Grey Wood), **N** for Nutrition and Nurture (needs a chair), **I** for Intergenerational (Sallie Ward), **O** for Outreach (Linda Pritchett), **R** for Recreation and Fitness (Betsy Holder), and **S** for Social (Wynn and Carol Pope). Our whole team is committed to building relationships and providing opportunities for worship, learning, fellowship, faith sharing and service that will help older adults relate to God, grow in their faith and be actively involved in the life of the church. If you are interested in serving in any of these areas please contact Charles and Mary Belle Gilbert (288-4664) or Bill Ellison (275-4587).

—Mary Belle Gilbert

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Dinner and a Speaker, Friday, January 15. Paid reservations due by Tuesday, January 12. See article in this issue for detailed information.

Lenten Home Bible Study on Wednesdays, 2--3:30 p.m., **Feb. 17-March 24.** Watch for details and registration information.

Heritage Sunday and Luncheon, April 25, Southeastern Jurisdiction

Wisdom & Grace Conference at Lake Junaluska, August 9-12.



FRIENDSHIP CLUB

Friendship Club, an open group that meets monthly September through May, invites you to come and enjoy a good program and lunch. If you did not attend in December, you missed a wonderful program of Christmas piano and organ music by Alice Ann Johnson and Susan Bates.

On **Monday, January 25, Lia Miller, Executive Director, Director of Administration and Development, Shepherd's Center of Greensboro, will be our speaker.** Shepherd's Center is located in our building on the first floor. Lia will tell us about the many opportunities that the center provides to seniors in our community. **Reservations are required by January 20.**

On **Monday, February 22, Captain Brian Cheek from the Greensboro Police Department and a staff member from his department will be our speakers.** They will talk about how seniors can protect themselves and their homes and practice good safety measures. **Reservations are required by February 17.**



WALKING CLUB



The Walking Club will continue to meet and walk on Tuesday at 10:30 am at Bicentennial Park (weather permitting), followed by lunch at Tex & Shirley's at 11:30 am. (Be sure to dress appropriately for cold weather.)

— Betsy Holder