



Contact

August-
September
2003

(K o n ' t a c t ')

C o n n e c t i o n o r I n t e r a c t i o n ; C o m m u n i c a t i o n

This publication is designed to inform, inspire, and ignite special services to our Retired Ministers and Widows. If you are doing something in your area that is proving to be successful and a blessing, this paper will always be open and available to you to share it with others.

How A Smaller Church Can Develop An Effective Senior-Adult Ministry

Small churches often work with limited resources, including finances and volunteers. This may prevent a church from developing various ministries if leaders view these as disadvantages rather than challenges that can be overcome. It is possible for smaller congregations to have active, healthy senior-adult ministries. The goal is to find creative ways to overcome the challenges. It doesn't take an abundance of financial resources to create an environment where people can be accepted, loved, and ministered to. Nor does it take a large group. Here are several tips that can help you develop an effective senior-adult ministry in your church:

- ♦ Appoint a director who recognizes the need of ministering to older adults.
- ♦ Form a committee to help determine the needs of your church's seniors. This committee can consist of as little as two or three people (i.e. include seniors).
- ♦ Create a vision and purpose for your senior-adult ministry.
- ♦ Survey older adults to learn their interests and needs.
- ♦ Talk with senior-adult coordinators in your area or district to get ideas.
- ♦ Plan events based on the knowledge gained from surveys and interviews.

Choosing your first event will depend on the needs and interests of seniors in your congregation. If seniors enjoy fellowship, plan an event centered around fellowship. Potlucks or dinners are great for this. If prayer is a strong focus, meet together to pray for the needs in your church and community. For groups who express interest in travel, plan a one-day trip to a local attraction.

Some success of your program depends on promotion. See as follows:

- ♦ Plan events far enough in advance so seniors can fit them into their schedules.
- ♦ Announce the event in the church bulletin at least two weeks before its date.
- ♦ Create fliers to hand out or display at the church.
- ♦ Write letters or postcards as reminders.
- ♦ Make telephone calls.
- ♦ Encourage members to invite a friend.
- ♦ Create a mailing or newsletter specifically for senior adults. List birthdays, anniversaries, special events, ministry opportunities, prayer requests.

It's not finances and quantity of people that make senior-adult ministries a success. Start small, but start somewhere. It takes time to develop effective ministries.

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Milestones

Anniversaries

Trent and Stephanie Belford
August 6
Raymond and Carol Wall
September 22

Birthdays

Ronald Smith
August 14
Stephanie Belford
August 22
Nicole Houle
August 23
Carol Wall
September 8
Paul Alumbaugh
September 13
Jewell Bailey
September 15
Paul Eure
September 15
Joy Smith
September 17
Clifford Elliott
September 24

Please contact us if we need to update our records. We do not want to leave anyone out!



Harold and Betty Bowman

and widows in DelMarVa and pay all the expenses. They send each one a \$100 gift at Christmas, as well as provide a beautiful Christmas banquet. They also publish one of the best monthly newsletters. Brother Harold tries to keep in touch with each person and when a need arises, financially or physically, he is right there ministering to them as needed. We salute you, Brother Bowman, for being the quality person you are and doing the great work you do.

? Paul F. Henson, SpiritCare Director

Featured Representative

Our featured representative this issue is Reverend Harold Bowman. He and his wife, Betty, pastor the Heritage Church of God in Severn, Maryland. They have a special love for retired ministers and widows. They have served as the SpiritCare Representative in the DelMarVa region for several years. Some of the most exciting things that are happening in the SpiritCare ministry is taking place right in this area. They have had as high as 26 retired ministers adopted by their local church. They provide a retreat for all the retired ministers

Please remember the following needs in prayer:

- ◆ Bishop Raymond Wall, SpiritCare Representative in Western Canada: He had a heart attack and angioplasty surgery.
- ◆ Mrs. Frances Shoemaker, wife of Reverend Paul Shoemaker, SpiritCare Representative in Florida: She has fallen and injured her back.
- ◆ Mrs. Gerry Coulter, wife of William P. Coulter, SpiritCare Representative in Tennessee: She recently had to have major surgery.
- ◆ Reverend John Black, SpiritCare Representative in Kentucky: He had carpal tunnel surgery.
- ◆ Reverend Paul Henson, Director of SpiritCare: He experienced a mini-stroke.

As Reported To Our Office:

- ⇒ Reverend Clifford Elliott and the Oklahoma State Office recently sent out Helping Hands applications to all of the retired ministers and widows within their state.
- ⇒ Reverend W.C. Thurman of the Pacific Northwest Region has been contacting the pensioned widows within the state to see how they are doing and if they have any needs.



Herman and Doreen Smith

Your prayers would be appreciated by the Herman Smith family. Brother Smith was the Arizona SpiritCare Representative. He passed away on Sunday, July 13. He and his wife, Doreen, came out of retirement to pastor the Desert View Church of God in Tucson, Arizona, which was struggling. They had done some remodeling and had set the church on a good foundation financially at the time of his passing. Brother Smith and his extensive ministry will certainly be a great loss for the Church of God.

A candle loses nothing by lighting another candle.

—Father James Keller, Founder, The Christophers

