



Seabury Resources for Aging

Congregational Resources: Parish Contact Lunch & Learn Meeting
St. Paul's, Rock Creek Parish January 6, 2011, 11:30am-1:30pm

Meeting Notes: "Celebrating Older Adults in the Parish and Diocese"

Attendance:

Betsy Bowman, St. Columba's	The Rev. Rosemari Sullivan, St. Paul's, Rock Creek
Maureen Callanan, St. John's Beltsville	Wilhelmenia Walden, Atonement
Linda Ewald, St. Mark's DC	Thomasina W. Washington, St. Philip the Evangelist
Gayle Fisher-Stewart, Lay Associate, Our Saviour, Brookland	Theresa Wheeler, Grace SS
The Rev. Paula Clark Green, St. John's Beltsville	Mary Ann Wilmer, Seabury Board
Jeannette Harris, Atonement	CB Wooldridge, St. Paul's K Street
Lois Jackson, Holy Comforter	Louise Young, St. George's DC
Tyler Jones, St. Andrew's	
Arleen Leis, St. Philip's Laurel	

Welcome! *Mary Ann Wilmer, Seabury Board Member*

Opening Prayer by CB Wooldridge

Introductions/sharing of ministries by Parish Contacts

Mrs. Washington is the new parish contact from St. Philip the Evangelist. Welcome!

While the meeting centered on special services for older adults and their ministry, several key themes should be noted: weaving the generations, lack of "younger old" to mentor and assume programs for older old, the role of the church in (liturgies? assistance? when frail elders have milestones of loss such as giving up driving), how to provide assistance with fiercely independent individuals. Again, transportation or rides to church cropped up as a major issue for some churches. This group was urged, especially for Prince George's county, to consider starting a rides program such as Senior Connections in Montgomery County.

Atonement's service for seniors and homebound is January 12th. One of the honorees is Parish Contact Jeannette Harris! Congratulations. Atonement publicized this in the Washington Windows. A van brings homebound to church (and to Senior Celebrations).

Grace Silver Spring noted that programs are shaped by leadership. The clergy incorporate a recognition moment but have no designated Sunday and parishioners resist the term senior. Pennyworth, their thrift shop, has been in existence for 50 years and is run by seniors. It is a major source of funding for the church. While Grace has identified their honoree, Theresa then raised the problem of seniors who cannot admit they need assistance. See discussion later in this article.

Holy Comforter's senior group meets 2nd and 4th Thursdays each month for a speaker and lunch. 5 of the 8 members of the newly formed Steel Pan Orchestra are older adults and their first gig was Christmas Eve.

Our Saviour, Brookland honored those over the age of 80 at their Homecoming service. This small congregation has 37 honorees from age 80 to 102. The parish comfort ministry is active. This year they

hosted workshops for caregivers, Bible study, a community feast for the day after Thanksgiving, and offers a resource package with an elder-care lawyer on retainer. This congregation has no paid staff other than a weekly supply priest. The Lay Associate and the Lay Youth Minister are helping the congregation regain their vitality as a church. Seabury staff member thanked the Lay Associate for the congregation's ongoing donations of food to Seabury Ward 5 Office on Aging services food bank.

St. Andrew's will have a parish celebration this year.

St. Columba's has no formal service honoring older adults although several Sunday forums address "senior" issues and Betsy maintains a bulletin board and information table. Wednesday classes often target seniors. Movie nights have been offered and when Young at Heart was shown, panelists ranged from a 13 year old rock musician to an older adult classical musician. Intergenerational working was a thread running through many of these reports.

This year, St. Columba's is instituting a nomination process for their honoree at Senior Celebrations and Betsy passed out their timeline. With this, their intention is to generate more awareness of the vitality of the contributions of older adults and to increasing attendance at the service on May 2nd.

St. George's DC is primarily an older adult congregation. Louise has chaired Senior Sunday for several years and is ready to pass along the responsibility. They celebrate their Seniors in 2 parts: 1) a service and speaker; in which all parts of the service are run by older adults. 2) a luncheon prepared by seniors for seniors. In past years, the seniors received a flower bud or ribbon, this year they received a medallion. (that idea drew excited conversation!) The senior group meets monthly. Of concern is how to rise up younger leaders. One of the attendees from St. George's recruited a person willing to be trained to take over her position. Others have not been able to recruit. This is a major area of concern for most of the people in the discussion. How do we balance health partnering with this transition? How do we help people understand that while their spiritual energy is strong, their physical energy or ability is in the past? What are the liturgies for transition for giving up one's driver's license, for example? What is the role of the church in helping people through the painful transitions in life?

St. John's Beltsville will be taking these ideas and promoting these intergenerational partnerships and also consider hosting a "senior day". Seniors are the backbone of all their services. Transportation and rides to church program are examples of services needed within the congregation. Food sharing: they are a SHARE site and dependant on volunteers for this labor intensive program. Some in the congregation offer their SHARE food and service hours to others. The Rev. Paula Green reported on St. Timothy's and St. Patrick's as well as St. John's Beltsville.

St. Mark's Capital Hill has identified their honoree. Their Third Age group starts at age 60 with several 90 year olds. They meet one Saturday a quarter. January 22nd at 10:30 the topic will be decluttering and they seek a list of places accepting donations. The older adults also have a Wednesday Bible study.

St. Patrick's pair Bible Buddies: pre-confirmation children with older adults who have a responsibility for helping youth study and learn the Bible. This parish actively supports the work of St. Phillip's Anacostia. St. Patrick's now hosts a support group for care-givers run by lay leaders with support from the parish nurse at the Cathedral and the Associate Rector.

St. Paul's K Street is another parish run by seniors and although they have no specific service dedicated to older adults, the church puts up a banner each May about older adults.

St. Paul's Rock Creek has an active daytime 2nd Tuesday community program with movie, discussion, and snack. They are interviewing parishioners' stories for their archive as their 300th anniversary is 2012. The rector has identified a potential parish contact for older adult ministries.

St. Philip's Anacostia has no specific celebration of older adults. The congregation is aging and young adults don't return. The ECW relies on seniors. Of note: this is a pledging church and also has fundraisers as it was a mission church 100 years before becoming a parish when Dr. Lewis came. Their child development center is growing and the church was just featured in the Windows. St. Patrick's in DC contributes large food baskets at Christmas.

St. Philip's Laurel has an intergenerational program and will have the generations interview one another.

St. Timothy's youth-older adult partnerships were not just for Senior Saints but Daughters of the King also had a youth-older daughter mentoring program. The partners were linked carefully.

Annie Shaw, Director, Seabury Congregational Resources, Note Taker

CONGREGATIONAL RESOURCES EVENTS February-June 2011

Thursday, February 3, 2011 All Soul's Episcopal Church, 2300 Cathedral, NW 11:30-1:30
Topic: Health Ministries in the Diocese
Panel: Mary Baylor, Cathedral; Mary Ann Buckley, SCM; Lois Jackson, Holy Comforter; John G. Miers, National Episcopal Health Ministries Fr. Booker, St. Philip's, Baden. Fr. John Beddingfield will offer a blessing. This meeting will be catered by Mark Hoffman, Parish Senior Ministries Coordinator. ***Guests are welcomed, with a special welcome to guests from All Souls.***

Thursday, March 3, 2011 St. John's Episcopal, Beltsville MD 11:30-1:30

Thursday, April 7, 2011

Monday, May 2, 2011 – SENIOR CELEBRATIONS – Washington National Cathedral

Service in the Nave at Noon honoring the ministries of specific older adults by their parish

Celebrant: The Rt. Rev. John Chane Reception following

Thursday, June 2, 2011 – Thank you Parish Contacts! End of Year luncheon honoring your work on behalf of Older Adults. Place: Friendship Terrace (*renovations will be complete and the staff and residents want to show you their new facility!*)