

When I'm Old

I'll Live With My Kids

When I'm old, I'll live with my kids,
and make them so happy, just as they did.
I want to pay back all the joy they've provided,
returning each deed. Oh, they'll be so excited.
(When I'm old and live with my kids)

I'll write on the wall with reds, whites and blues,
and bounce on the furniture wearing my shoes.
I'll drink from the carton and then leave it out.
I'll stuff all the toilets, and oh, how they'll shout.
(When I'm old and live with my kids)

When they're on the phone and just out of reach,
I'll get into things like sugar and bleach,
Oh, they'll snap their fingers and then shake their head,
and when that is done, I'll hide under the bed
(When I'm old and live with my kids)

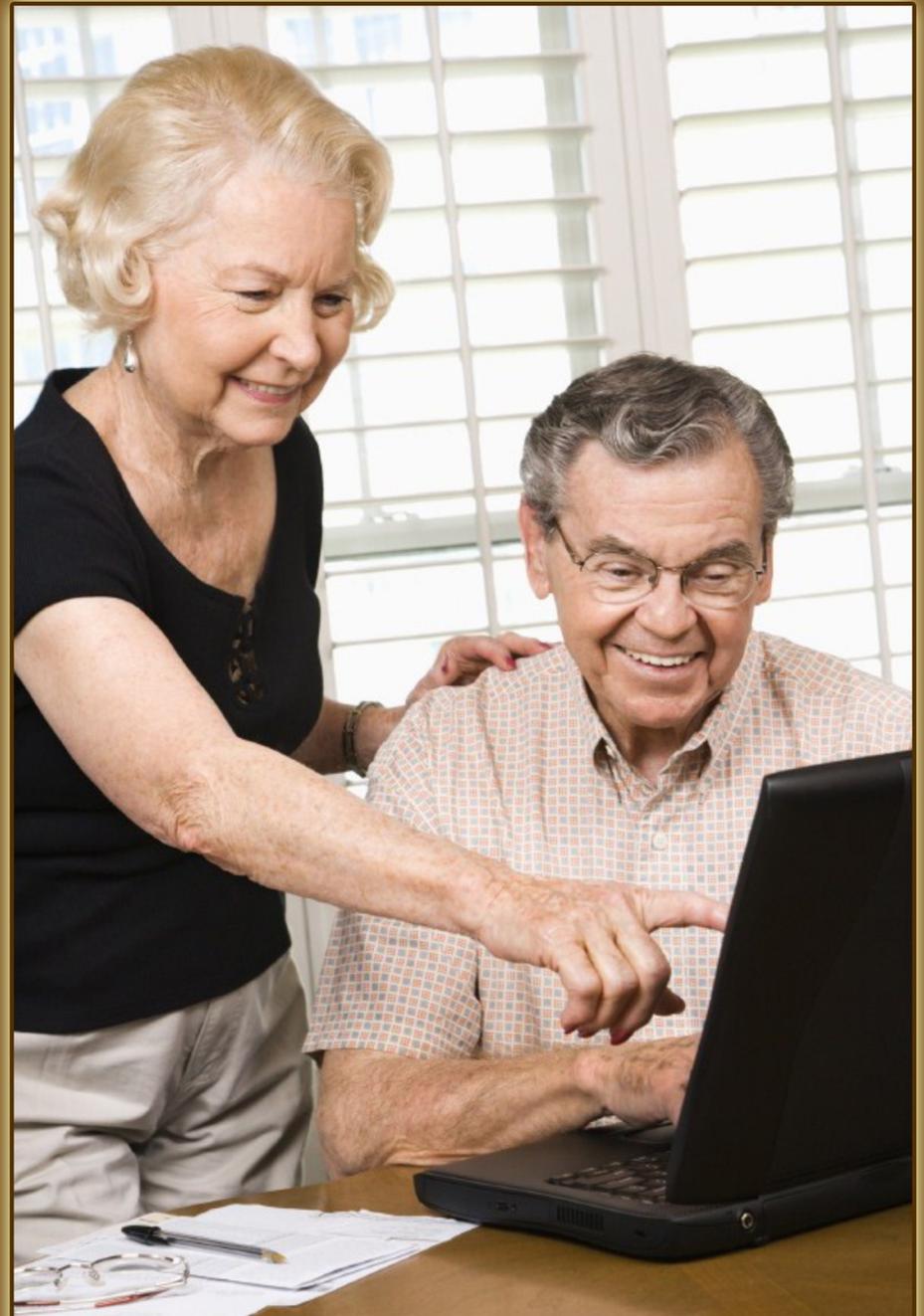
When they cook dinner and call me to meals,
I'll not eat my green beans or salads congealed.
I'll gag on my okra, spill milk on the table
and when they get angry, run fast as I'm able.
(When I'm old and live with my kids)

I'll sit close to the TV, thru the channels I'll click,
I'll cross both my eyes to see if they stick.
I'll take off my socks and throw one away,
And play in the mud until the end of the day.
(When I'm old and live with my kids)

And later in bed, I'll lay back and sigh.
Thank God in prayer and then close my eyes.
My kids will look down with a smile slowly creeping,
and say with a groan. "She's so sweet when she's sleeping."
(When I'm old and live with my kids)

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-- Joanne Bailey Baxter, Lorain, OH



Senior Adult Ministry Ideas

By: Ron Mizell

NOTES

NOTES

PURPOSE AND MISSION OF SENIOR ADULT FELLOWSHIPS IN THE LOCAL CHURCH

The church in the USA is being challenged like never before to make specific accommodations for senior adults, partly because there are more senior adults in our congregations and in our neighborhoods than ever before. With ten thousand Baby Boomers turning 65 every day for the next seventeen years, the need for a dynamic and challenging senior adult ministry will only increase. Add the fact that today's senior adults are the healthiest, most affluent and best educated seniors in history and it is plain that the church has access to a resource that can greatly benefit the church and the kingdom of God. We must not waste it!

A successful Senior Adult Ministry will provide:

- Affirmation and encouragement to believing senior adults,
- An outreach to those senior adults who do not have an adequate relationship with Christ
- Opportunities for ministry to those senior adults who are able and interested in advancing the kingdom.

People of all ages look and long for meaningful relationships and desire to feel needed and appreciated. Senior adults are no different in that respect. Many have lived for Christ for many years, have been faithful to the church

and have made significant sacrifices on behalf of the church, their family and others. All of us know we have an important appointment to keep in the near future. If anyone ever needed encouragement and affirmation, it is those who are nearing the crossing. May we, as the church, respond.

REGULAR MEETINGS

Would-be senior adult leaders will be faced with the task of planning meetings and projects for their troop. While “meet & eat” functions can grow old and uninviting quickly, we should not dismiss the value of meeting with a regularity that people grow accustomed to and plan on. Meetings should be frequent enough for people to remember. Many groups find that monthly meetings seem to fit the bill quite well.

What to do with frequent meetings if not eat and fellowship? Adding a time of devotion in which a message from God’s Word is given and time is allowed for sharing and praying over individual concerns can greatly enliven a simple monthly meeting. The use of local, lay talent for speaking and/or singing is usually adequate to bless most groups. Recorded sing-along music can suffice if there is a shortage of local talent. The Gaither Homecoming Series (along with others) offers excellent older music that can be used to sing along.

useful. Some places to look in addition to YouTube and Vimeo aforementioned include:

- ◇ www.senioradultministry.com
- ◇ <http://www.activityconnection.com/>
- ◇ <http://texasbaptists.org/files/2011/04/A-Year-of-Ideas-for-Planning-Senior-Adult-Activities.pdf>
- ◇ <http://seniorliving.about.com/>
- ◇ <http://www.dpacnc.com/>
- ◇ <http://www.raleigh-theater.com/theaters/raleigh-memorial-auditorium/theater.php?gclid=CL20sZv1xrgCFSlo7AodUx4AhA>
- ◇ <http://calendar.ecu.edu/>
- ◇ <http://www.crosswalk.com/>

HAVE A GREAT SENIOR ADULT FELLOWSHIP

And now, in my old age, don’t set me aside. Don’t abandon me when my strength is failing. Psalms 71:9 (NLT)

RESOURCES

There are an increasing number of resources with ideas and help for senior adult ministry. As America grays, the array of good resources continues to expand. They will include but not be limited to:

- Community organizations. Most towns have a “senior center” where personnel will be happy to assist in locating resources you may need for your group. They will also be happy for your group to take part in many of the activities they sponsor
- Many books are available to assist with a meaningful senior adult ministry. Amazon lists 21 pages with 12 books on each page of material for senior adult ministry. Although I cannot endorse the following since I have not read them, they provide a glimpse of the kinds of titles available:
 - ◊ Senior Adult Ministry in the 21st Century by David P Gallagher
 - ◊ Catch the Wave by Charles and Win Arn
 - ◊ A Vision for the Aging Church by James M. Houston and Michael Parker
- The internet offers an unlimited cornucopia of ideas and materials for almost any ministry, including for seniors. Care must be exercised when using the internet, however, because in many ways cyberspace is like the old west – anything goes. Don’t be surprised or dismayed by what you find. If you are diligent and learn to look in the right places, you can unearth a lot of things that can make your senior adult group interesting and

PARTICIPATION PROJECTS

Since most people want to feel wanted and needed, service projects for a senior adult group are a great way to provide for this need for affirmation. In addition, working together for a church oriented project affords opportunities for individuals to bond with others in the group, for newcomers to be assimilated and for everyone to value the church more since they are investing in its ministry. A few such projects might include:

- A Red Cross blood drive
- A community health screening event
- A Mother’s Day Out, providing child care for single and indigent moms
- A “Helping Hands” program to provide repairs and maintenance for homes or autos
- Sponsorship of a Church of God missionary, STEP team, or missions trip
- Sponsorship of a child, cottage or mother/baby in the Church of God Children’s Home of North Carolina
- Fund raising for a local church project such as a van (might be used for senior adult trips, BTW)
- Operation of a program for children of incarcerated parents (such as the annual Angel Tree program)
- Many other community oriented projects that can be found by connecting with local community leaders such as city councilmen, school principals, or social workers

FUN TIMES

Every good, continuing group can benefit for some fun activities, especially senior adults. So often, senior adults are faced with a bewildering array of life issues that seem negative and beyond help. Family, health, financial and other issues can make lots of misery for older adults. Something to lighten the mood and provide a little laughter can really help one's outlook. Besides, no one likes an old grouch. Be careful with humor, however, because many senior adults do not like humor that is too raw or suggestive. Fun events might include:

- A Day Trip. No overnight stay, low cost. Opportunities abound such as,
 - ◊ The Lost Colony with nearby Wright Brothers Memorial and the NC Aquarium
 - ◊ Wilmington/Fort Fisher with unique shopping at the Cotton Exchange, a Civil War museum, the battleship North Carolina and more
 - ◊ Outlet shopping at Smithfield and Burlington
 - ◊ Many museums and other cultural offerings in the Triangle Area
 - ◊ Sporting events such as college football and basketball in a number of areas, along with auto racing near Kenly, professional baseball at Zebulon and Edenton, professional hockey at Raleigh to name a few
 - ◊ Performance arenas such as DPAC and Raleigh Memorial Auditorium offer a wide assortment of entertaining programs throughout the year
- A time of humor in regular meetings. Funny videos abound in places like YouTube and Vimeo. Most senior adults know some funny family or church incidents that will amuse the entire group if a time for storytelling is provided. Someone in the group may have talent as a stand-up comic or impressionist. Funny songs for the group to sing are also available such as “The Arthritis Hop.”
- A themed meal can be both hilarious and enlightening. A luau, a Cowboy Christmas, an Italian Pranzo or a simple cookout can turn an otherwise lame meeting into an interesting and memorable occasion. It can also provide opportunities for people other than cooks to get into the act with decorations, information, background, etc.
- Games can be challenging, both intellectually and physically. They often are fun as well. They might include:
 - ◊ Bible Trivia
 - ◊ Crosswords and Sudoku
 - ◊ Picture Wordies 
 - ◊ Corncob Darts
 - ◊ Quoits