

RESOURCES

The Episcopal Church:

Older Adult Ministries

www.episcopalchurch.org/page/older-adult-ministries

Aging Is Changing

www.episcopalchurch.org/files/1_aging_is_changing

Planning Your Funeral

(a guide from St. Luke's Church, Ewing)

www.dioceseofnj.org/olderadults

Worship Service for Caregivers

www.dioceseofnj.org/olderadults

New Jersey Division of Aging Services

www.state.nj.us/humanservices/doas/home

NJ Foundation for Aging

www.njfoundationforaging.org

Administration on Aging

www.aoa.gov

National Council on Aging

www.ncoa.org

National Resource on LGBT Aging

www.lgbtagingcenter.org/

CONTACT INFORMATION

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The Committee for Ministry With Older Adults

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OLDER ADULT MINISTRY

GROWING IN CHRIST

WISDOM

GRACE

SERVICE

CELEBRATION



OUR MISSION

The Committee for Ministry with Older Adults seeks to

- * celebrate the blessings of aging
- * help the church to advocate for the needs of older adults
- * share the wisdom of older adults and resources related to aging.

More than one in three Episcopalians is over the age of 65, and another 41% of Episcopalians are between the ages of 45 to 64. That means three of every four members of the Episcopal Church are age 45 or older. In terms of economic stressors alone (retirement age, technology gaps, social services, Social Security, and Medicare), the impact of this demographic group on local congregations is profound.

How do we recognize, honor, and utilize the experience, wisdom, and gifts of older adults?

How do we develop ministries that integrate and weave multiple generations together spiritually?

How do we cultivate Christ's message of hope and service for older adults, families, and their caregivers?

How do we explore and develop innovative and contemporary liturgical, spiritual, and service ministries by, with, and for all generations in the Body of Christ?

REFLECTIONS

Gray hair is a crown of glory; it is gained through a righteous life. (Proverbs 16:31)

*Grow old along with me!
The best is yet to be,
The last of life, for which the first was made:
Our times are in His hand
Who saith "A whole I planned,
Youth shows but half; trust God: see all, nor
be afraid!"
(Excerpted from "Rabbi Ben Ezra" by Robert Browning)*

...A good old age, full of days, riches, and honor... (1 Chronicles 29:28a)

*O God, from my youth you have taught me,
and I still proclaim your wondrous deeds. So
even to old age and grey hairs, O God, do
not forsake me, until I proclaim your might
to all the generations to come.
(Psalm 71:17-18)*

*You don't stop laughing when you grow old;
you grow old when you stop laughing.
(George Bernard Shaw)*

*Do not cast me off in the time of old age;
forsake me not when my strength is spent.
(Psalm 71:9)*

*Aging is not lost youth but a new stage of
opportunity and strength. (Betty Freidan)*

*Retirement is not in my vocabulary. They
aren't going to get rid of me that way.
(Betty White)*

FROM OUR BISHOP...

"The Church is among the only places in society where four generations gather regularly together to pray, play, serve and care for one another. Having served as Rector of a parish with a large number of seniors in a part of the country with a large senior population, I have first hand



knowledge of what a blessing and treasure our seniors are to all of us. I am equally aware of the particular challenges

that face us all as our years increase. I support and am grateful for the work of The Committee for Ministry with Older Adults who will keep before us all ministry by and to the aged of The Diocese of New Jersey."

A Prayer for Older Adults: Look with favor, O God of all seasons of life, on older adults who live among us and their wealth of experience, reminding us of the need to enjoy each day as your gift and offering us perspective, courage, peace, and a vision of what it means to age with grace. Provide for our seniors, as for all, an increase in faith and renewal. May they be filled with your grace in the ongoing journey. May we all be one in the great communion of saints. This we pray in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (Adapted from Book of Common Prayer and Association of Brethren Prayer-givers)