

## Resource Guide for Older Adult Ministries

ISSUE 71

2022 SUMMER

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### A MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

Good Morning from Oregon,

The theme of this issue of *PNN* is, *Rejoice in the LORD Always*. Times change. We change. The world changes. But the LORD is always with us. We rejoice in the LORD always!

Five articles in this issue of *PNN* share insights on *Rejoice in the LORD*:

- "MEMO from Membership" by Linda Rauenbuehler
- "POAMN Virtual Worship Service honoring Older Adults"
- "The Passing of a Legend: Dr. Richard L. Morgan
- "RUTH KOENIG: Part 2 – Planting Seedlings for Justice" by Quentin Holmes
- "Well Done Faithful Servant of the Lord: Rev. Dr. James Foster Reese"

Other articles in this issue include:

- "Organizational Administrator being sought"
- "Presbyterian Historical Society" by Steve Aschmann
- "Who, Me, COVID-19 by Quentin Holmes
- "Save The Date – Ferncliff Retreat"
- "Opportunities" by Steve Aschmann
- "A Prayer for Ukraine"
- "Birthday 100 Celebration" by Adrienne Knight
- "A Contemplative View" by Wesley Lachman

*PNN* is your newsletter. We need you to send us short notes about things you have done or ideas that your group has found to work. The theme of our Autumn issue will be "*Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.*" Deadline for manuscripts is September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022. Many older adults are in our congregations. By the power of God, plus our faithfulness and our warmth, we can reach out.

Thanks be to God!

*Quentin A. Holmes*

Quentin A. Holmes / Marcola, OR



Jane & Quentin Holmes



Pat Baker, POAMN President

## POAMN PRESIDENT'S REFLECTION

**HAPPY SUMMER!** We're already seeing hot temperatures in the Deep South, so I expect it will be an uncomfortable summer. I'm planning to be dipping my toes in cool water as much as possible.

In early May, as part of my Older Adult and Caregiver Ministry at St. Andrews Presbyterian Church, I took a group of 14 seniors to Montreat for a four-day Reflection, Rest and Relaxation retreat. It was the first overnight adventure I've had with the older adults since beginning the ministry in early 2019. About the time I was contemplating such a trip, the pandemic hit and we had to delay a couple of years.

In November of last year, while attending a conference at Montreat Camp and Conference Center in North Carolina, I made the decision that I'd return with a group in late spring of the next year. I booked a lovely lodge, estimated I'd get around 15 attending and started planning. Because of all the turmoil and stress of the past two years, I decided I wanted a time of equal parts of reflection, rest, and relaxation, with plenty of down time mixed in with each day. We are lucky that Montreat is only a 3 ½ hour trip from our church in Tucker, GA.

I got my 15 as predicted, although one person had to back out at the last moment due to illness. The lodge I picked, William Black Lodge, had plenty of accessible rooms and was ideal for the group. It also had a lovely front porch, so if folks decided they were going to sit and rock for three days, they had beautiful scenery to gaze upon.

The schedule included a time of worship and reflection each morning, along with the beginning of a book study of Richard Morgan's book, *Remembering Your Story*, which I plan to finish this fall. Late morning and after lunch, folks were free to do as they wished, including walking/hiking, visiting museums or stores on campus, playing games, or just sitting on the porch. After dinner we gathered again for evening vespers and card and board games. One day, everyone headed into the nearest town, Black Mountain, to visit the shops and eat lunch at one of the many great restaurants.



William Black Lodge, Montreat Conference Center



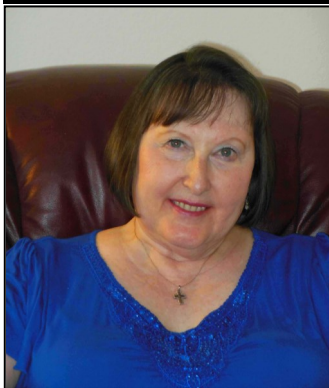
At Montreat – Our Retreat Group

The comments included, "The balance of planned and free time in the schedule was perfect," "It was great getting three meals a day and not having to cook or think about cooking," "Having the opportunity to visit at length with my fellow church members in person was wonderful," and of course, "When are we going again?" The answer to the last question is already taken care of; I've booked the same lodge for late April in 2023.

If you are contemplating a trip with the older adults at your church I'll be more than glad to share my planning documents, schedule, and how I incorporated the book *Remembering Your Story* into the retreat. You can contact me by telephone 678-438-3673 or email [pat@sapctucker.org](mailto:pat@sapctucker.org)

ENJOY YOUR SUMMER AND BE SAFE!

*Pat Baker*



Linda Rauenbuehler  
Membership Committee Chair

## MEMO FROM MEMBERSHIP

The theme for this issue of the PNN is **“Rejoice in the Lord Always.”** A few weeks ago, a quote came through my email that I really liked and wanted to use at some point. Of course, now that I want to pass it on, I cannot find it anywhere. The main point of the quote (though not so eloquently stated) is that as we age, we can choose to whine, recline, and decline or we can SHINE.

That email message containing the quote was an obituary for Dr. Richard L. Morgan who passed away on March 25<sup>th</sup> at the age of 93, at his assisted living facility in Pennsylvania. Dr. Morgan presented a workshop at our most recent POAMN Annual Conference, which was held, online, in October of 2021. I attended his informative presentation entitled *“Remember Your Story.”* As I looked through some of his obituaries online, searching for the quote, I got more acquainted with this retired Presbyterian pastor, professor, and volunteer chaplain. I found out he has authored or co-authored twenty books.

Dr. Morgan is definitely someone who made the choice to SHINE and was a living example of how God is with us all the years of our life. He also exemplifies the theme **“Rejoice in the Lord Always”**.

### Upcoming Events

POAMN, in partnership with the Office of Christian Formation of the Presbyterian Mission Agency, will offer an Older Adult Ministries Leadership Retreat, November 9-12, 2022, at Ferncliff Camp & Conference Center near Little Rock, Arkansas. This will be a time to come together in person to retreat, relax, learn, and network with our POAMN friends from across the nation. Watch for more details and registration coming soon at [www.poamn.org](http://www.poamn.org).

### Certificate of Older Adult Ministry

POAMN collaborates with Columbia Seminary in Decatur, Georgia, on classes leading to a Certificate of Older Adult Ministry. Please check out this wonderful opportunity. Information can be obtained by going to Columbia Theological Seminary and looking under LifeLong Learning.

Respectfully submitted,

*Linda Rauenbuehler*

POAMN Membership Chair

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## 100<sup>th</sup> BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

by Adrienne K. Knight / Baltimore, MD

I serve as the Synod Representative (Mid-Atlantic Synod) to Presbyterian Women. Yes, I wear many hats. The Presbyterian Women's Birthday Offering is turning 100 years old and I am looking for ladies (or men) that will be celebrating their 100th birthday. If someone is 100 plus I would like to know about them too!



Presbyterian Older Adult Ministries Network

I need their name, birthdate, presbytery, church and a little something about them. So we can create a corner in the newsletter and share this information. It will be the POAMN Birthday Corner.

[Editor's NOTE: Please send the information to Adrienne Knight. [aoukar@verizon.net](mailto:aoukar@verizon.net) /

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## POAMN IS SEEKING A NEW ORGANIZATIONAL ADMINISTRATOR

After two decades of faithful service to ARMSS and POAMN, our Organizational Administrator, Ginny Nyhuis, is retiring at the end of this year. We are thus seeking a replacement and this is the first of several announcements that will be issued as the year progresses.



### Tentative Outline of Job/Duties

The POAMN Organizational Administrator serves as the headquarters of POAMN. Working from home and reporting to the Executive Committee of the POAMN Board of Directors, the major responsibilities of the administrator are:

- Issuing mass e-mailings to members;
- Maintaining/updating the POAMN website;
- Maintaining the POAMN membership database;
- Organizing (with the Conference Planning Committee) the POAMN annual /national conference;
- Attending meetings of the POAMN Board of Directors;
- Interfacing with all members of the POAMN Board of Directors as needed;
- The layout and issuing of the POAMN Newsletter “POAMN Network News” (5 times/year);
- The Layout and issuing of the annual POAMN Planning/Resource Guide;
- Being the initial point of contact for interested parties and potential new members.

The administrator will need to be able to work independently, possess good organizational skills, have computer skills to include data entry, IT skills to include website maintenance, social media skills, and an ability to use publishing software.

Additionally, the administrator will need good interpersonal/customer service skills and be able to work with an all-volunteer organization. A working knowledge of PC(USA) and experience working with older adults are preferable. Travel to the national conference venue and up to two other trips per year are anticipated.

Starting pay is \$20 per hour for an anticipated 10-15 hours per week.

If you are interested in further exploring this opportunity, please email [poamnetwork@gmail.com](mailto:poamnetwork@gmail.com) with questions or more detailed information.

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## POAMN VIRTUAL WORSHIP SERVICE HONORING OLDER ADULTS

by Quentin A. Holmes, Editor PNN

On Sunday night, May 22, 2022, POAMN held its first-ever virtual worship service honoring older adults. The theme was *“From Generation to Generations.”* The culmination of months of work by the POAMN Planning Committee during the challenges of COVID-19, this uplifting and inspiring worship service celebrated older adults across a variety of cultures. The worship service was held at Hunting Ridge Presbyterian Church (HRPC) in Baltimore, MD. Ms. Adrienne Knight served as our moderator.

**POAMN President Pat Baker gave a welcome** to everyone via video and summarized the mission of Presbyterian Older Adult Ministries Network (POAMN) in partnership with the Christian Formation Collective sponsored by the Presbyterian Mission Agency. Ninety individuals from 50 cities and 20 states across the USA and Canada participated.

*(Continued on page 5)*

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Rev. Tanya S. Wade and Anthony Wade, pastor at Grace Presbyterian Church and her husband called us to worship with African song and djembe drums.

**Rev. Keith Paige**, pastor of Cherry Hill Community Presbyterian Church in Baltimore, MD, **called on the ancestors to join us.** His congregation is an African-American congregation in the heart of Baltimore. As Rev. Paige spoke he poured libations. *“We call on our ancestors to be proud in our memories... And to be in our worship today.”*

**Suzanne Jewell** read the **opening scripture** from Hebrews 12: Vs 1-2. *“...Surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us run the race that is set before us...”*

**Rev. José Lopez-Chapa**, pastor of Comunidad Presbiteriana La Trinidad(CPT), a Hispanic/Latino congregation in Anne Arundel County, MD, **led us in an opening prayer.** Rev. Lopez-Chapa prayed first in Spanish, then repeated the prayer in English.

**Dr. Carol Sruggs**, Minister of Music at Cherry Hill Community Presbyterian Church, led us as we sang the hymn, “Pass Me Not, O Gentle Savior.”

**Rev. Keith Paige** led us in **the offering.** *“Offering is more than money. God wants all of us, not just our pocketbooks. All that we have is a gift from God. Think about the gifts that you have and how those can be used to help others.”* Rev. Paige then led us in a prayer of dedication.

**Craig Sparks**, HRPC Musical Director, played the piano for the **musical selection.** The vocalist was **Elder Eva Hendrix-Shovlin.** The music itself seemed to simply well forth from her innermost being!

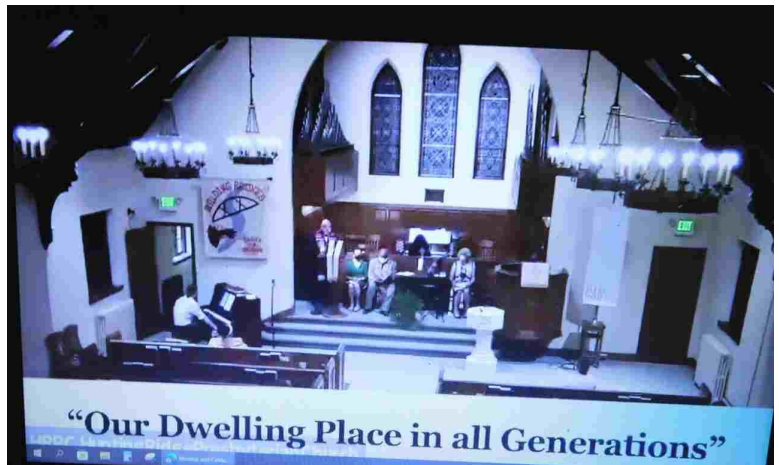
**Rev. Deborah McEachran**, Minister at Hunting Ridge Presbyterian Church, **led us in prayers of intercession.** Folks who were participating via video were invited to send in prayer requests via “chat. She concluded by leading us as we recited The Lord’s Prayer in unison.

**Hymn No 455**, “Listen to the Word That God Has Spoken,” **was sung as a prayer of illumination.**

**Suzanne Jewell** read aloud the **primary scripture: Psalm 90 vs 1-6.** *“...Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God...”* This scripture set the stage for **the theme, “Our Dwelling Places in All Generations.”**



Older Adult Ministry Information – at HRPC



Rev. José Lopez-Chapa - led us in the Opening Prayer

*(Continued on page 6)*

*(Continued from page 5)*

**Rev. Deborah McEachran presented a sermon** on this theme. *“...In Africa when a baby is due, they say that the mother is ‘about to pop!’ When a new baby arrives it is a sign that life will continue even after we are gone. God is known to be the Mother of the Mountains. It is this God that offers a refuge to all generations, to new ideas, and to new forms of ministry. A question for you to think about is, ‘What new things is God ‘popping’ in your life?’”*

**Rev. José Lopez-Chapa also presented a sermon** on this theme. Rev. Lopez-Chapa described his congregation, one of the One Thousand New Worshipping Congregations. He shared how his congregation owns a small farm near Annapolis, MD, where families can grow their own food, and the children can experience nature. His message was simply this, *“...No matter what happens in our lives, in our world, God is always there. God is always with us. The Lord is our dwelling place.”*

**Rev. Keith Paige also presented a sermon** on this theme. We are looking for a place to dwell in the midst of so much chaos and upheaval. Our God is able to bring forth creation in our lives. To help us be the people that we want our children to be. His message was this, *“...When our hands become arthritic, and our eyes become dim... From generation to generation, God is our dwelling place.”*

**The Affirmation of Faith** was a modern-word adaptation of **1 Corinthians: Vs 13:**

Leader: *If I know all the latest dance moves of the new generation and have not love;*

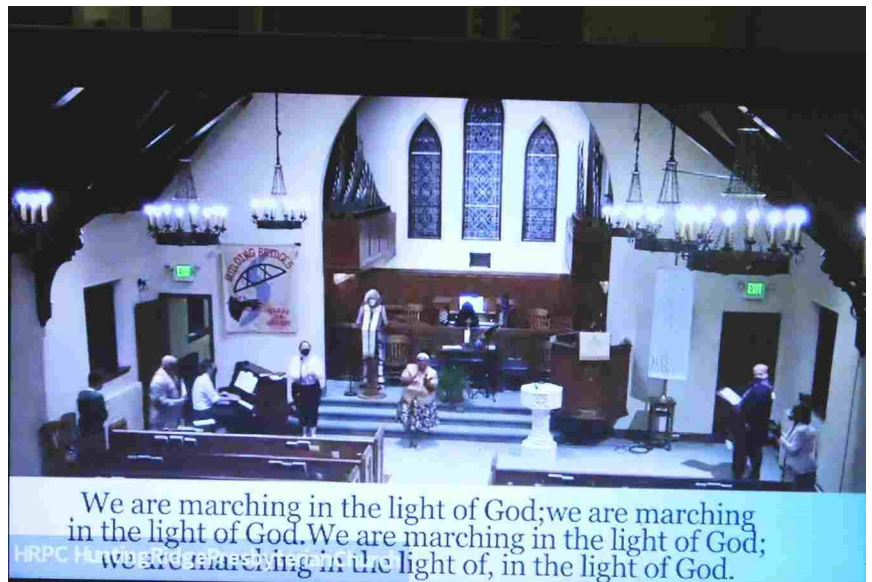
All: *I’m only a wanna be young person with neither the experience nor the ability to fit in.*

Our **closing hymn** was, **“We Are Marching In The Light Of God.”** Verse 1 was sung in English; Verse 2 was sung in Spanish; Verse 3 was sung in Zulu; and Verse 4 was sung in English. Adrienne Knight spontaneously began marching around the sanctuary. And very soon, everybody else was also marching around the sanctuary! We all are Marching In the Light of God From Generation to Generations. God has been good to us. Continue to March in the light like our ancestors, mentors, leaders, etc.

A **closing benediction** was pronounced by each of the ministers.

What an inspiring and uplifting experience.

POAMN’s Older Adult Month Worship Service was deeply touching to me personally. Adrienne Knight, POAMN Conference Planning Committee Chair – and her co-leaders – did a truly excellent job. And, the Dear LORD was right there supporting and watching over us all. Thanks be to God!



Adrienne Knight leading everyone in marching around

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*“Be very careful never to forget what you have seen the Lord do for you.  
Do not let these things escape from your mind as long as you live.  
And be sure to pass them on to your children and grandchildren.”*

(Deuteronomy 4:9)

## DISCOVER OLDER ADULT MINISTRY HISTORY AT THE PRESBYTERIAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

by Steve Aschmann, POAMN Vice-President

You want to build up and put vitality into your older adult ministry, but you don't want to re-invent the "old wheel". You are interested in the history, progress, and evolution of older adult ministry in our denomination. You may find the resources that you are looking for at the Presbyterian Historical Society located in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. I recently visited the City of Brotherly Love, and with the help of David Staniunas, Records Archivist for the PHS, I was able to examine the contents of eight large file boxes containing the Society's collection of Older Adult Ministry records and materials. The most recent box in this collection was compiled by our POAMN Staff Administrator, Ginny Nyhuis. It contains annual guides and publications, minutes, as well as information on ARMSS (the Association of Retired Ministers, Spouses, or Survivors). With no official office or headquarters, the Executive Committee has recognized the benefit of gathering archival worthy materials in one safe location.

If you have an opportunity to do some research, you will be rewarded with the opportunity to examine recent materials, as well as documents and publications from our predecessor denominations, the PCUS and the United Presbyterian Church, dating from 1972. There are: Planning Guides from 2000-2021, "AGenda" newsletters edited by Dr. Richard L. Morgan from 1982-1991, Minutes, Mission Statements, Covenants with denominational entities, Correspondence, By-Laws and more. The collection even contains an "Aging Is for Everybody" tote bag dating from the 1980's.

Highlights of the collection include materials and documents which follow the development and establishment of POAMN. The Older Adult Ministries Enabler Network (OAEMN) was organized in 1982 when 16 synods and presbyteries named individuals to develop older adult ministries with congregations within their bounds. In 1988 the Enabler Network was reorganized as the Association of Presbyterian Older Adult Ministry Enablers. In 1992, a new name was embraced, Presbyterian Older Adult Ministries Network (POAMN), with membership composed of both representatives from mid-councils and individuals engaged in a variety of forms of senior adult ministry.

Because of COVID protocols, the Presbyterian Historical Society is operating with limited hours and is limiting the number of researchers admitted to building. Please contact the PHS well ahead of your visit if you wish to look at our collection. The Presbyterian Historical Society is located at 425 Lombard Street, Philadelphia, PA 19147. Their phone number is (215) 627-1852.



Exterior of Presbyterian Historical Society



PHS Records Archivist David Staniunas with OAM Collection



Steve Aschmann with Boxes of POAMN Records

## THE PASSING OF A LEGEND: DR. RICHARD L. MORGAN

We extend the sympathy of the members of the Presbyterian Older Adult Ministries Network to the family and friends of Dr. Richard Morgan who passed away in Greensburg, Pennsylvania, on March 25<sup>th</sup> at the age of 93. As we mourn the Church's loss, we celebrate the faith and life of this man who made significant contributions to older adult ministry. At our annual conference in November, Richard led an engaging workshop entitled "Telling Our Story". He challenged us to create our own spiritual autobiography, leaving our stories to our children and grandchildren. True to his word, he has bestowed upon us a rich legacy of writings which focus on a wide-range of older adult issues. His thoughtful works have been appreciated by academics, older adult ministry professionals and volunteers, and senior adults. Richard was the author of twenty books on the Christian life and Spirituality of Aging, most of which were published by Upper Room Books.



Dr. Richard L. Morgan -  
Receiving POAMN Legacy Award  
(Oct. 2010)

Richard was an honorably retired minister of the Presbytery of Western Carolina. He served congregations in Moorefield, WV, Richmond, VA, Sherrill's Ford, NC, Lenoir, NC, and Morgantown, NC. He served as Professor of Religion at Peace College, Raleigh, NC, and Presbyterian College, Clinton, SC, and Professor of Religion/Psychology at Mitchell College, Statesville, NC. He was also Director of Counseling at Western Piedmont Community College, Morgantown, NC.

In his very last book, *Light of Setting Suns*, composed when he was 90 years old, Richard presented an insider's account of the struggles that often accompany old age. He leaves us with these words, "Three temptations of older people are to decline, to whine, and to recline. But here is a fourth option, a worthwhile one: to shine with the Spirit."

And that he did!

[https://mcusercontent.com/0b4d20c00178b7a4520005536/files/3246398a-c2bb-857d-666e-ec0f54b703f3/Richard\\_Morgan.pdf](https://mcusercontent.com/0b4d20c00178b7a4520005536/files/3246398a-c2bb-857d-666e-ec0f54b703f3/Richard_Morgan.pdf)

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### WHO, ME, COVID-19!

by Quentin A. Holmes, Editor PNN

It was a wonderful time. On May 24<sup>th</sup>, Jane and I flew to Nashville, Tennessee, to visit our youngest daughter's family and watch grandson Jake Mason graduate from high school. Months had passed since the last time we were able to be together with them in person. Visiting Margaret and her family was like passing through a time machine to the era when our three daughters were in high school. Teenagers, and their parents, have an incredible amount of energy!

Jake (age 18) and Julia (age 16) both attend a private school for grades kindergarten thru high school. The students are NOT allowed to bring cellphones to school. Students are encouraged to listen, to talk, to read, and to discuss with other students, as well as their teachers. The students write essays, give speeches, and engage in projects of their choosing, ranging from beekeeping, to raising horses, to growing cotton, to golfing, to playing volleyball, football, soccer, and swimming. The goal is to prepare the students to be good citizens and enable them to follow their life dreams in whatever field they wish to pursue.

(Continued on page 9)



*(Continued from page 8)*

For Jake and his sister Julia, competitive swimming is their sport of choice. They both have swim practice for 2-1/2 hours each morning and each evening, seven days of the week. I rode along with Jake and watched their swim practices from 6:15AM to 8:45 AM. Going with Jake and Julia to swim practice brought back fond memories of when I used to do that with daughter Margaret during her high school years. I laughingly called it, “Getting my morning chlorine fix.”

Graduation was outdoors on Saturday morning, May 29<sup>th</sup>. 119 high school students graduating with their families proudly looking on. Four graduating seniors gave commencement addresses, four rather different views of what each felt was of most value to them as students. It was an uplifting event.

Jake must have gone to at least a half-dozen graduation parties for other kids he knows. His graduation party was on Sunday afternoon. Margaret has always been very organized, and this was truly a gala event for Jake and his entire family. About 85 people came to Jake’s graduation party. About 1/3<sup>rd</sup> were adults, and lots and lots of kids ages 15 thru 21 who consider Jake a personal friend. I took lots of pictures of Jake with his friends. I met Jake’s friend, James Johnson, age 16, who wants to have a career in as an aerospace engineer for NASA, and we spent a lot of time talking about space exploration. I also met Jake’s friend, Tim Howard, age 17, who wants to go through ROTC in college and join the US Marine Corps. To everyone’s surprise, Jake asked the owner of the live band if his friend, Tim Howard, could borrow one of their guitars and sing a song. What talent! Tim Howard sang “*Mother’s don’t let your babies grow up to be cowboys*” and brought down the house! Later, I learned that country singer Tim McGraw is Tim Howard’s uncle and has always encouraged Tim to try his hand at singing (much as I encouraged my grandson Owen Burek to become a physicist).



**Jake Mason – Receiving High School Diploma**

Both Jane and I have been double vaccinated, and both of us have received two booster shots against COVID-19. Nevertheless, who knows when or how, COVID-19 caught me.

Shortly after we returned home to Oregon, Yours Truly became horribly sick. It began with a slight dry cough after worship service on Sunday morning, June 5<sup>th</sup>. Within 24 hours I developed a painfully sore throat. Monday, June 6<sup>th</sup>, Jane drove me to a COVID clinic in Eugene, Oregon, to get tested for COVID-19. Within an hour the test results came via e-mail. “POSITIVE” for COVID-19 SARS 2.”

I contacted my primary care physician’s office, and got assigned to a “Triage Team.” My COVID symptoms were classed as “mild” by the Triage Team because I didn’t have a fever and wasn’t experiencing difficulty breathing. (Goodness, I shudder to think what it would be like to have “severe” COVID symptoms.) After asking what options I had for treatment, I was sent an information sheet on an experimental anti-viral medicine called Paxlovid. “You need to read this information, understand fully what the potential side effects are, and be informed that no one yet knows what long-term effects it will have.” Having read everything, I emailed in my written consent/request to be treated for COVID with a five-day protocol of Palovid.

I assumed the prescription would be available from my pharmacy. Not so! Not only did my regular pharmacy not handle this experimental medicine, the medicine itself was in very short supply. A limited quantity was made available to a specific pharmacy on any given day.

On Tuesday, I had a video visit with an M.D. standing in for my primary care physician. That went well. A friend, who had offered, “To help you and Jane in any way that I can,” picked up my prescription around 6PM

*(Continued on page 10)*

*(Continued from page 9)*

and drove it out to our house in the Woods. The instructions were simple: “Take 2 pink pills and 1 white pill each morning and again each evening for five days.” And to be sure I did things correctly, the pills were packaged into a morning set and an evening set. Problem was, my throat was so sore that it was extremely difficult for me to swallow. It took over 5 minutes, but I finally got an evening dose of those 2 pink pills and 1 white pill down along with a small amount of water.

Jane, bless her heart, took good care of me. However, she was not used to seeing me sprawled out on the couch like it was my death bed. For me, accepting the role of a receiver of help from others rather than a giver was a personal challenge.

By Wednesday morning, it was clear that the antiviral medicine had begun to kick in. Overnight, I went from feeling totally miserable to being just a sick person who knew that they would be getting well sometime. With each passing day I felt noticeably better. The sore throat eased up, gradually I regained the ability to drink lots of water and even eat solid food. Last Sunday morning, I finished taking my final dose of the anti-viral medicine. I still cough now and then, and it will be awhile before I will test negative for COVID-19, but I feel human again. Thank goodness for modern medicine.

And, believe it or not, Jane does not have COVID-19. Praise be to God!

DO YOU SERVE IN OLDER  
ADULT MINISTRIES?

DO YOU CARE ABOUT THE  
SPIRITUAL FORMATION OF  
OLDER ADULTS?

ARE YOU IN NEED OF REST  
AND REJUVENATION IN YOUR  
MINISTRY?

COME TO A  
**LEADERSHIP  
RETREAT**

WITH JOYCE MACKICHAN  
WALKER

NOVEMBER 9-12, 2022

[WWW.POAMN.ORG](http://WWW.POAMN.ORG)

**POAMN**  
Presbyterian Older Adult Ministries Network



Presbyterian Mission  
**Office of Christian  
Formation**



## SAVE THE DATE!

POAMN Retreat at Ferncliff Camp & Conference Center – November 9<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup>, 2022



POAMN is having a **RETREAT!** We are going to be in the Ozark Mountains in November – to be together, to celebrate the beauty of the outdoors, and to refresh our inner spirits. Ferncliff Camp & Conference Center is renowned for its restful setting and lovely nature trails.

Helping us refresh our spiritual side will be the inspiring Joyce MacKichan Walker. Joyce retired in 2018 after thirty years of ministry at the Nassau Presbyterian Church in Princeton, New Jersey, as minister of education and mission and director of Christian education. Her first love within Christian education is teaching, which she actively practices as instructor of certification classes for Christian educators, for older adult ministry, and as a workshop leader. Joyce recently taught the *Teaching for Transformation* Older Adult Ministry - Certification course at the Center for lifelong Learning at Columbia Theological Seminary. Joyce was the APCE Educator of the Year in 2008.

Come! Be together after these 2 years of COVID-19. Treat yourself to a respite from this crazy, busy, uncertain world.



Lakeside View of Ferncliff Camp & Conference Center

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### REV. DR. JAMES 'JIM' FOSTER REESE (1924-2022) - WELL DONE FAITHFUL SERVANT OF THE LORD

by Quentin Holmes, *PNN* Editor



Rev. Dr. James Foster Reese

The Rev. Dr. James 'Jim' Foster Reese has gained his Heavenly wings. He was a tall oak of presence, faith, leadership, service and an inspiring pioneer in the racial justice movement.

Rev. Jim Reese was the primary author of "[All-Black Governing Bodies](#)" (1<sup>st</sup> published in 1996) a groundbreaking work of denominational history that grew out of a General Assembly overture.

Rev. Jim Reese helped found the Association of Retired Ministers, Spouses or Survivors (ARMSS) back in the mid-90's. Rev. Reese along with his supportive wife Neola took an active part in each of the Joint ARMSS/POAMN National Conferences (years 2009, and 2011 thru 2016). Jim Reese had a gift for reaching out and raising others up to his level of faith and deep spirituality. ARMSS merged with POAMN in December 2016.

Rev. Reese served as an ordained minister in the Presbyterian Church for 70+ years. He continued his retirement at the PC(USA)'s General Assembly Office for decades in a number of progressively responsible positions. His last one as director of the Racial Ethnic Ministry Unit.

Jim Reese was truly a man of faith. We celebrate his life and hold all who were inspired by his circle of life in our prayers.

Well Done Faithful Servant of the LORD!

## RUTH KOENIG: A Lifetime of Drawn to Social Justice

by Quentin A. Holmes, Editor POAMN Network News

### Part 2 of 2: Planting Seedlings for Justice

Ruth Koenig, age 81, of Central Presbyterian Church in Eugene, Oregon, has stepped into several precarious situations during her lifetime supporting social justice movements. In our Spring Issue, we featured an article, “Standing Up for Fairness,” documenting her involvement in the 1960’s drive to register African-Americans to vote in Mississippi. Here we trace Ruth’s experience supporting the anti-apartheid movement in Johannesburg, South Africa, and the Winnemem Wintu Native American tribe in Northern California.



RUTH KOENIG

### Women’s Movement

When are the seeds of social justice planted in the mind and heart of a young person? For Ruth Koenig, the Women’s Movement in the 1960s impacted her profoundly. Ruth was around 11 years of age, waiting for a dental appointment, when she read a magazine article about NBC television journalist Pauline Fredrick. “*I wanted badly to tear those pages from the magazine and take them home. But they wouldn’t allow that,*” recalls Ruth. Instead, she stole the entire magazine and still has it to this day.

*“Most people have someone in their family who was a mentor. Well, Pauline Fredrick inspired me. I saw that it was possible for a woman to travel the world. I wanted to be a journalist. What she was doing was interesting and very important.”*

Pauline Frederick was a popular United Nations correspondent until she retired at age 72, two years after NBC’s mandatory retirement age of 70. Koenig wrote a letter to Ms. Frederick. And the distinguished reporter wrote back:

*Dear Ms. Koenig,*

*I want to thank you for your note which has me standing a bit taller, for I have been struggling with an injured vertebrae in my back... I am concerned for what is currently happening in Nicaragua.*

*Signed, Pauline Fredrick.*

### South Africa – Apartheid

In the 1980s, the fight against apartheid resonated with Koenig following her experience in Mississippi.

*“People were pressuring for a commercial boycott as a means to protest apartheid. By then, I’d recognized that I learned most by going and seeing for myself,”* recalls Koenig.

In 1986 Ruth flew from Shelton, Washington, to Johannesburg with a retired minister, his wife, and their daughter. After touring Johannesburg, they went to Botswana by car, across the Kalahari Desert, and up to Victoria Falls on the Zambezi River at the border of Zambia and Zimbabwe.

*“What a slow, adventure-filled drive with the wild animals all around, like a kudu with 36-inch-long horns,”* describes Ruth.

Back in Johannesburg, Ruth taught at a pre-school (referred to as a “Crèche” in South Africa) for the next six weeks. She stayed with a married couple and two young South African women. Ruth asked a lot of questions, like: *“What are the white people here doing about apartheid?”* It frightened the mother of her housemate Naomi. *“Having a white person around was very terrifying to her,”* described Ruth.

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Near the end of her stay, one afternoon Ruth answered the doorbell. A white South African woman stood before her and said, "Perhaps you'd like to know a little about me. I went to Mississippi in the summer of 1964..." Ruth invited her in and the two talked for hours. The woman urged Ruth to go to the office of the Black Sash, an organization started by white women who opposed apartheid. A few days later Ruth did.

Ruth was introduced to Black Sash activist Di (Diana) Bishop, and shortly thereafter asked to accompany two young, black social workers to "hot spots" to gather information. On Ruth's mind was a promise to her daughter, Sharma, that she (Ruth) wouldn't go anywhere that was truly dangerous.

The following morning, Ruth arrived at the appointed location with a friend named Isabella. Suddenly, a car pulled up and two teenage guys jumped out and came running over sprightly. The guys handed Ruth their business cards. They worked for the Archbishop of South East Johannesburg! The plan was to find people who would come to Johannesburg and talk about ways to ease tensions.

They told her, "We have to be careful. We can't always say where we are going."

The first location was a carpet shop. Ruth waited in the car, parked at the back entrance, while the teens spoke to the proprietor. In another township, Ruth accompanied the gentlemen inside an undisclosed location to meet with a black minister.

*"I didn't understand the language spoken, but I sensed they were not planning an activity - just sharing contacts."* All day the three drove about, stopping at several places and talking to certain people.

There was a man named "Chieftain" who was killed by a member of the Vigilantes. As their car stopped near his home, Ruth took a picture. When Ruth turned to take another picture, she heard one of the black teenagers say, "Oh No! That man is a Vigilante and he has seen me." Then, "Oh No, he's turning around!" Their driver started the car and they quickly sped off with the other car in hot pursuit. Ruth's thought was that perhaps she should throw her camera away. Suddenly, their car turned off sharply onto a hard-packed dirt road and sped up even more. At one point, Ruth remembers glancing up at the speedometer and realizing the car was travelling at a speed of more than 100 miles per hour. Shortly thereafter, the dirt road connected up with a concrete road, the other car was gone, and they were able to take Ruth back home safely.

Ruth had been expected at home at 2 PM, but she didn't get home until after 6PM. The couple she was staying with, who had planned to go out that evening, were greatly relieved. "When you didn't come home, I was very worried about you," said the wife. "Ruth, go upstairs and take a soaking bath." Which Ruth immediately did.

The very next day, Ruth met the Archbishop of South East Johannesburg. The Archbishop asked her, "Are you the white woman who went with my guys to the townships yesterday?" Ruth replied that it was indeed her. The Archbishop paused and said, "Now you know something of what we live with."

A week later Ruth returned to the United States. But the Archbishop and the others in South Africa went on with their lives, dealing with longstanding barriers built on hate and greed.

### **California – Winnemem Wintu Native Tribe**

In the early 2000s, Ruth became aware of decades of injustice suffered by Winnemem Wintu Native Americans, one of nine bands of Wintu who originate on the West Coast. Ruth joined in to support their cause by sharing the issue with members of the Central Presbyterian Church.

Back in 1854, forty-two Winnemem men, women, and children were killed by white settlers at Kabyai Creek on the McCloud River in Northern California. This event is known as the Kabyai Creek Massacre. Around the late 19th century and early 20th century, local militias were awarded \$5 for proof of every Native Ameri-

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can person killed.

Currently, the Winnemem Wintu are working toward federal recognition. Some members contend the Winnemem Wintu were omitted from the list of federally recognized tribes as early as the 1940s due to an error by Department of Interior Officials who were part of “Bureaucratic Oversight” efforts.

Beginning in 1945, Shasta Lake, the reservoir created by the Shasta Dam, began flooding into portions of the Lower McCloud River. In 1971, a group of Winnemem Wintu occupied Toyon-Wintu Center, government housing that had been built for dam construction workers. They were granted a temporary permit to remain at the site in 1973, but in 1988 the government moved to evict thirty remaining Wintu residents. The eviction was complete in 1989.

Today, the Winnemem Wintu are in a protracted legal struggle with the State of California and the Federal Bureau of Reclamation over the proposed raising of the height of Shasta Dam to secure more water for California cities and agriculture. The Winnemem Wintu argue that higher lake levels would flood many Winnemem Wintu sacred sites. From September 12 to 16, 2004, one faction of Winnemem Wintu held a “war dance” as a protest. This was their first war dance since 1876.

In 2019, a ceremony to celebrate the coming of age of a young Winnemem Wintu girl was held on the McCloud River on land that is sacred to their tribe.

“I was honored to be present for that sacred ceremony,” remembers Ruth. “It pleased me greatly.” If there is a pattern to Ms. Koenig’s interests, it is belonging to communities that support youth, particularly young women, to blossom into meaningful adult lives.



*Older Adult Ministry*

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## A CONTEMPLATIVE VIEW - A PARABLE, BONFIRE OF THE VANITIES

by Wesley Lachman / Eugene, Oregon



Over the years, he had managed to stuff his garage full of ideas and thoughts for improving other people and solving political problems. To the casual observer, walking by, it just looked as if Hal had an exceptionally clean garage. All the tools were hung neatly on the wall, floor was swept and a few boxes stacked in the corner. But Hal knew that it was stuffed and cluttered with ideas that he didn't want to have roosting in his head. Most of his ideas for what other people should do were kept right on top or just beneath his workbench. He wanted to be able to grab them as needed. But sometimes, maybe usually, he needed to work on them before they were ready for "prime time." For example, Mrs. Henderson, a widow, lived next door. He had an idea for her, "Hey, Ms. H, you need to get some new clothes and then maybe someone will find you attractive." For his boss, he thought, "Mike, Mike, they are only human, man. Would it be so painful for you to show a little empathy?"

To his credit, Hal also had some critical thoughts regarding himself that he kept in a little locked box near the window. He rarely opened the box because he never knew what to do with the information. Some ideas were negative: how he was rather inferior, how he had never really accomplished much. Some were positive: how he had a wonderful family and supported worthy causes.

Last summer, when the family was vacationing out at the coast, they were walking the beach when a sneaker wave hit. Eloise, his three-year-old, was torn from her mother's hand and started to be drawn back into the crashing waves. Hal ran and made a flying leap and grabbed her leg. She was safe. Badly shaken and dripping wet, they returned to their motel.

Strangely, at the very moment that Eloise was in mortal danger, a small flame appeared within the back wall of Hal's garage. It spread quickly to engulf the whole place in flames and burned it to the ground before fire people could arrive. No one was able to reach the family, so when they pulled up in front of the house the next day, they were shocked to see a smoldering square of ashes. It took Hal until the next morning to notice that all his thoughts and ideas had also gone up in smoke. He no longer had stacks of opinions about people and issues. The place where they used to fill up his mind had become empty. And immediately that space became filled with what was now: tables and books, grass and trees. And, "Oh my Lord," he said to himself, "What I think about people is gone, and now I have just the people, just this one, and just that one!" He saw Mrs. Henderson in her yard. "Hey, Mrs. H, you're looking well."

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*"A faithful friend is the medicine of life."*

(Ecclesiastes 6:16)

## SMALL GROUP OPPORTUNITY: “CULTIVATING YOUR OWN OLDER ADULT MINISTRY”

by Steve Aschmann, POAMN Vice-President

We received this note of thanks from Mariangela Saavedra, Director of the Center on the Hill, which is the senior adult ministry program of the Presbyterian Church of Chestnut Hill, PA. I think her note is better than anything that I could jot down. They received a \$500 Older Adult Ministry Grant.

### Ballroom Dancing Comes to The Center on the Hill

Thanks to a grant we received from POMAN last year, on Friday, June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022, we were pleased to host Christopher Spaulding and Kelly Bartlett Spaulding from the Fort Wayne Ballroom Company at the Center on the Hill to teach ballroom dancing to our active adults. Chris and Kelly are award-winning ballroom dancers who hold three national titles and one world title for ballroom dance. The day started with the *Classy & Sasssy Ballroom* class where we learned to Foxtrot and Waltz. Then we took a lunch break where light snacks were provided and participants enjoyed their brown bag lunches and got to socialize with each other and the instructors.



Dance Class at Center on the Hill

After that we picked up the pace with *Rockin' Out Ballroom* class. There we learned the Mambo, the Salsa, and the Hustle. At the end of that class, the students asked our instructors if they would dance for us, and they obliged with a lovely Waltz demonstration. The day was attended by twelve people, and everyone stayed for both classes. At the end of the day, those who participated were incredibly appreciative of the special experience and told our instructors if they ever found themselves back in Philadelphia, to please come to the center again.

Opportunities in Older Adult Mission Grants like the one utilized by the Center on the Hill are available for 2022. You will find more information and applications on the POAMN website, [www.poamn.org](http://www.poamn.org)

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### A PRAYER FOR UKRAINE

Dear Lord we pray you will save  
All your children of Ukraine  
For you must fight this fight for them  
Without your help they cannot win  
As they fight the Russian bear  
Who has brought them such despair  
Come on Lord of the Heavenly host  
By the power of the Holy Ghost  
This alone can win this fight  
The bear will fall only by Thy might  
They are the Goliath of this age  
And Ukraine the David small & brave.

(Written by Robert C. Brouillette 3/22)

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Membership fees for 2022 are now being accepted.

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