



Ministry on Aging Work Group Newsletter

Providing resources and information for ministry by and to older Americans.

Volume IV

Issue 1

April 2010

The Ministry on Aging work group seeks to serve in response to God's love in Christ Jesus, acting as a bridge to the congregations of this Synod in advocating dignity and justice for senior citizens.

- Pastor Barbara Wills, Chair.
- Connie Johnson, Board of Ministry in Mission liaison
- Pastor Bill Straka
- Pastor Harriet Danielson
- AIM Peg Torrin
- Dorothy Juhl Zelle,
- Judy Stone
- Sonnee Steveson
- Pastor Lois Knutson
- Pastor Sandra Burroughs

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- Lynn Peters, Associate Professor of Social Work Wartburg College Resource Consultant

Come Lord Jesus, Be My Guest

For several years now "Come Lord Jesus, be my Guest" has been my mantra during the morning meditation sometimes with candle light or other times without. I've been using these words as I have grown older, become sensitive to my need for focusing; maybe I did before and just wasn't as conscious of being so disciplined. Lately, I've been becoming more aware of how my sense of God's loving, healing, calling, Presence comes to focus my mind and lingers longer.

Many years ago when working as a chaplain, I encountered an elderly lady who had been blind for many years. She summoned me as I walked by her room asking if I could visit with her. After I responded and entered her room, closing the door behind me, she said, "I hope you'll not think me crazy for what I want say." After assuring her I would not, she told me that she had experienced God's Presence. He just appeared. She couldn't really see his face since it was dark and his head was covered, but she knew it was Jesus. "He just came in and stood at the foot of my bed for quite awhile and I wasn't afraid; I just knew it was him," she said. She/we shared her experience of the gladness and the strengthening she felt many times as a result of having experienced that Presence. She also felt regret for not being able to share that experience with her family. "They just could not understand," she said.

I've been thinking lately of Eli, young Samuel's boss to whom the young Samuel came when he heard a voice call out his name in the middle of the night. (See I Samuel 3). You know the old man whose family had so selfishly and flagrantly rebelled against their God and their father Eli. He wasn't able to recognize the Real Presence of God until the third CALL. How ready and able are you to recognize God's Call?

Come Lord Jesus, be our Guest! Amen

Pastor William Straka

Book Review

Legal Guide for the Seriously Ill: Seven Key steps to Get Your Affairs in Order (American Bar Association Commission on Law and Aging, 2009).

Funded by the *National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization*, this new publication provides a wealth of practical and current information for anyone facing a potentially-incapacitating illness or disability and/or their caregivers. Moreover, it's free! Topics discussed in this 51-page booklet include finding the resources to pay for care with a discussion of some emerging options such as viatical settlements and reverse mortgages. This chapter also provides a very useful checklist and discussion of tax deductions and incentives that may be available to family caregivers. There is a wealth of information about various advance planning directives and strategies for managing the affairs of someone who is incapacitated (such as guardianship, power of attorney arrangements, and representative payees). There is even a chapter that discusses ways of protecting the assets of surviving spouses and arranging for the care of beloved pets. The last section of the booklet provides a list of essential legal documents that anyone faced with end-of-life care should think about obtaining. Each of the seven chapters (about the key steps) contains numerous links to other publications for those seeking additional or more detailed information. It would be hard to find a more useful, comprehensive, or authoritative guide to care planning than this one. A printed copy of the Legal Guide can be obtained by contacting Deanna Clingan-Fischer, JD, at the IA Department of Elder Affairs (515-725-3319). I would be happy to forward to you an electronic copy via e-mail. Please send your request to lynn.peters@wartburg.edu.

Review by Lynn Peters, Associate Professor of Social Work, Wartburg College

Retire:

Withdraw from public life.
Retreat from the action.
Recede into the shadows.

Abraham was seventy-five
When God sent him out
To a new land—
A new beginning.

Grandma Moses was eighty-plus
When she began to paint
Works of art—
A new career.

Retirement implies becoming less.
God calls us forth
At every age—
To become more.

*Barbara M. Wills
February 12, 2010*

Looking for New Members

The Ministry on Aging Work is looking for new members. If you have skills and experiences or just an interest in ministry to the older members of our society, please join us. We meet twice a year. You may contact any member of the group to indicate an interest.

Watch for Our Exhibit at Synod Assembly

The Synod Assembly will be June 11-13 at Wartburg College. Look for our display. Members will be happy to answer any questions you might have. We are finalizing plans for a workshop. Check your Assembly book for time and place.

If you have a faith story or resource to share, contact Peg Torrin
(ptorin@hotmail.com)