



Retiree Ministry Edgemere Church of Christ Worship

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How Old Are You?

- ▶ Tell me how old you are without the use of numerical years.
 - ▶ What does Old Mean?
 - ▶ Chronological age
 - ▶ Social age
 - ▶ Functional age
 - ▶ Physical age
 - ▶ Psychological age





Senior Ministry Model



SOCIAL Component

Social Component

Extremely Important to:

- ▶ Engage Same Age Group
- ▶ Engage Same Gender Group
- ▶ Interact with Opposite Gender
- ▶ “Go Down Memory Lane” with same Cohort

Social Interaction Extremely Important Because:

- ▶ Risk of social isolation
- ▶ Widowhood may change living arrangements
- ▶ Retirement may limit relationship from work
- ▶ Moving to new town or even new church
- ▶ Research shows strong social networks promote emotional well-being

Types of Social Activity:

- Regularly scheduled local
- Special educational
- Periodic Trips
- Newsletter



SERVICE Component

Service Component

First: “WITH vs TO” approach- Service to Other Senior Adults

- ▶ Ministry leaders should identify both those who have need to receive service and those who have the ability/need to serve others.

Second: Service to entire congregation

- ▶ Adopt a grandchild/teenager program
- ▶ Become “Grand Father/Mother” to children’s class
- ▶ Surrogate grandparent for young families

Third: Service within Community

- ▶ Ministry leaders should identify community non-profit service groups and encourage involvement
- ▶ Identify community needs and start congregational outreach



SPIRITUAL Component

Spiritual Needs In Late Life

- ▶ Meaning and Purpose
 - ▶ Meaning answers the question, “What value am I to others?”
 - ▶ Purpose answers the question, “What is my role in the community?”
 - ▶ Meaning and Purpose give Identity
- ▶ Love and Relatedness
- ▶ Forgiveness
- ▶ The need to be useful
- ▶ The need to be thankful
- ▶ Biophysical exchange (Touch)

Spiritual Ministry Component

- ▶ Develop class material, Social interaction, Events, Trips, Service Opportunities that **focus on spiritual needs in later life**. (see previous list)
- ▶ Encourage discussion about;
 - ▶ Purpose in life
 - ▶ Forgiveness of others and self
 - ▶ Spiritual grandparenting
 - ▶ Spiritual life review

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Spiritual Components

- Develop bible class material that focusses on spiritual needs of later life. (see previous list)
- Encourage discussion about;
 - Purpose in life
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 - Spiritual grandparenting
 - Spiritual life review



Future Model of Ministry:

Intergenerational

Cohorts

People are grouped into generations based on their year of birth. Each of these groups are made up of about 20-25 years.

Churches today, often composed of SIX different generations.

Six generations in most Churches

- **Seniors**-born < 1926;
 - Greatest Generation/G.I. Gen
- **Builders**- 1927-1945;
 - Silent Generation, Children of Great Depression
- **Baby Boomers**- 1946-1964;
 - 75 million, Remodeled Society, “I am Special” Generation
- **Baby Busters/Generation X**- 1965-1983;
 - Busted baby boom,
- **Bridge/Generation Y**- 1984-2005;
 - Millennial- Becoming adults 2000
- **Generation Z**/ 2006-2020
 - Gen Text/ Internet Generation
 - AO Generation= “Always On” connected to Internet, multitasking

Present Ministry Model Stratified into Silos

Focus is on
Each
Generation

Children

Middle S

High S

Univ

Young Adult

Adults

Seniors



Future Senior Ministry Model

New Model

Social Components

Service Components

Spiritual Components

InterGenerational

Retirees (1920 – 1963)

Baby Boomers (1946-1964)

Baby Busters/Gen X (1965-83)

Millennial/ Y (1984-05)

Generation Z (2006-2025)

Children and Youth



MAKE AND DEEPEN DISCIPLES
INTERGENERATIONAL
MINISTRY

Biblical Perspective: Intergenerational

MAKE AND DEEPEN DISCIPLES
INTERGENERATIONAL
MINISTRY



Generations Achieving Partnership

A Biblical Example

- Luke 2:21-38
- Three generations story:
 - 1-Baby Jesus
 - 2-Mary & Joseph
 - 3-Anna & Simeon
- Every Generation Needs the Others

Every Generation Needs the Others



- Anna had a Story
 - Younger Generations need to hear the faith stories of fellow travelers
 - “Then Simeon blessed them...”
- Younger Generations need blessings of older generations

Every Generation Needs the Others

Older Generation Needs the
Younger Generation

Every Generation Needs the Others



- Anna needed Mary & Joseph so she could use her gift of prophecy
- Simeon needed Mary & Joseph so he could give his blessing

Every Generation Needs the Others

Older need younger to help define the identity of the older

- *“We live in a time in history when the older members of the tribe have to ask the younger members of tribe, ‘What is my value and role in the tribe.’”*

Thoughts on Intergenerational Ministry and Older Adults

Naming the Ministry

- How many of you under 70 want to be in the “Golden Agers,” “Sonshiners,” “39ers,” “Young at Heart,” or “Hilltoppers,” ministry?”
- Focus on needs rather than a name

Thoughts on Intergenerational Ministry and Older Adults

Must be Intentional

Not--“Well, all ages are welcome”

*“Unless other generations are intentionally included,
they will unintentionally be left out.”*

Thoughts on Intergenerational Ministry and Older Adults

begin with Present Ministry Organization

“GERONTOLOGIZE

- Discuss with present ministers and ministry leaders the thought of involving older members in some of their present programs and service activities
- **Break Down Silo Model!!!**

Thoughts on Intergenerational Ministry and Older Adults

Focus on Community Life of Church

Infuse intergenerational relationship-building and programming into existing programs and activities.

Build Relationships



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Thoughts on Intergenerational
Ministry and Older Adults

Cross-Generation

Communication is highly
important

Must Flow Both Directions

Have An Intergenerational Town Hall Meeting



Town Hall Meeting



- ▶ How can we serve together?
- ▶ Ways to know each other?
- ▶ How can we share spiritual journey?
- ▶ And, be a part of each others journey?

Thoughts on Intergenerational Ministry

purposefully Serve and
fellowship Together

- GAP
- Ground Zero Mission Trip
- Intergenerational Mission Trip
- Life Groups

Older Gen Must Be Receptive

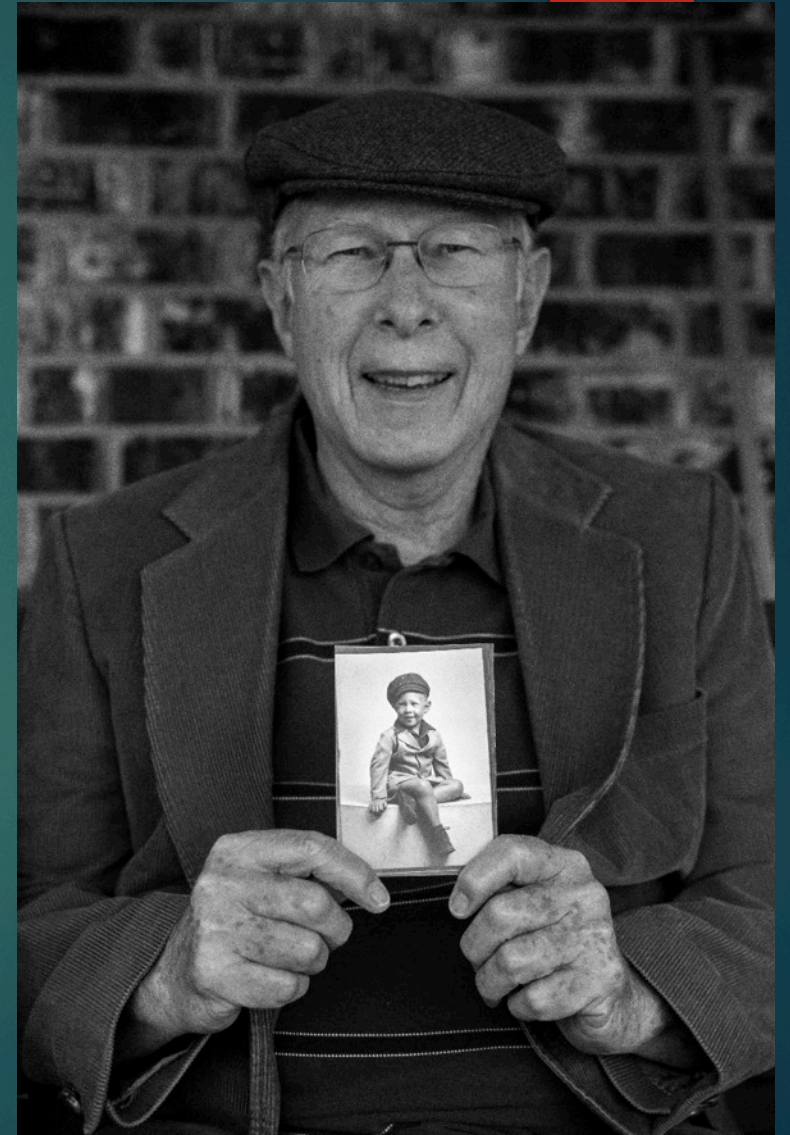


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Aging and Spiritually in Faith Community



The Fourth Age



Later Life is a Time for Growth

- ▶ “Gerotranscendence”
 - ▶ Gero- “Old Age”
 - ▶ Transcendence- “To Climb Over”
- ▶ Later life can be a time to move focus from material/physical to a spiritual view of life.
- ▶ A time to focus less on self and more on others.

Life Losses in the Fourth Age

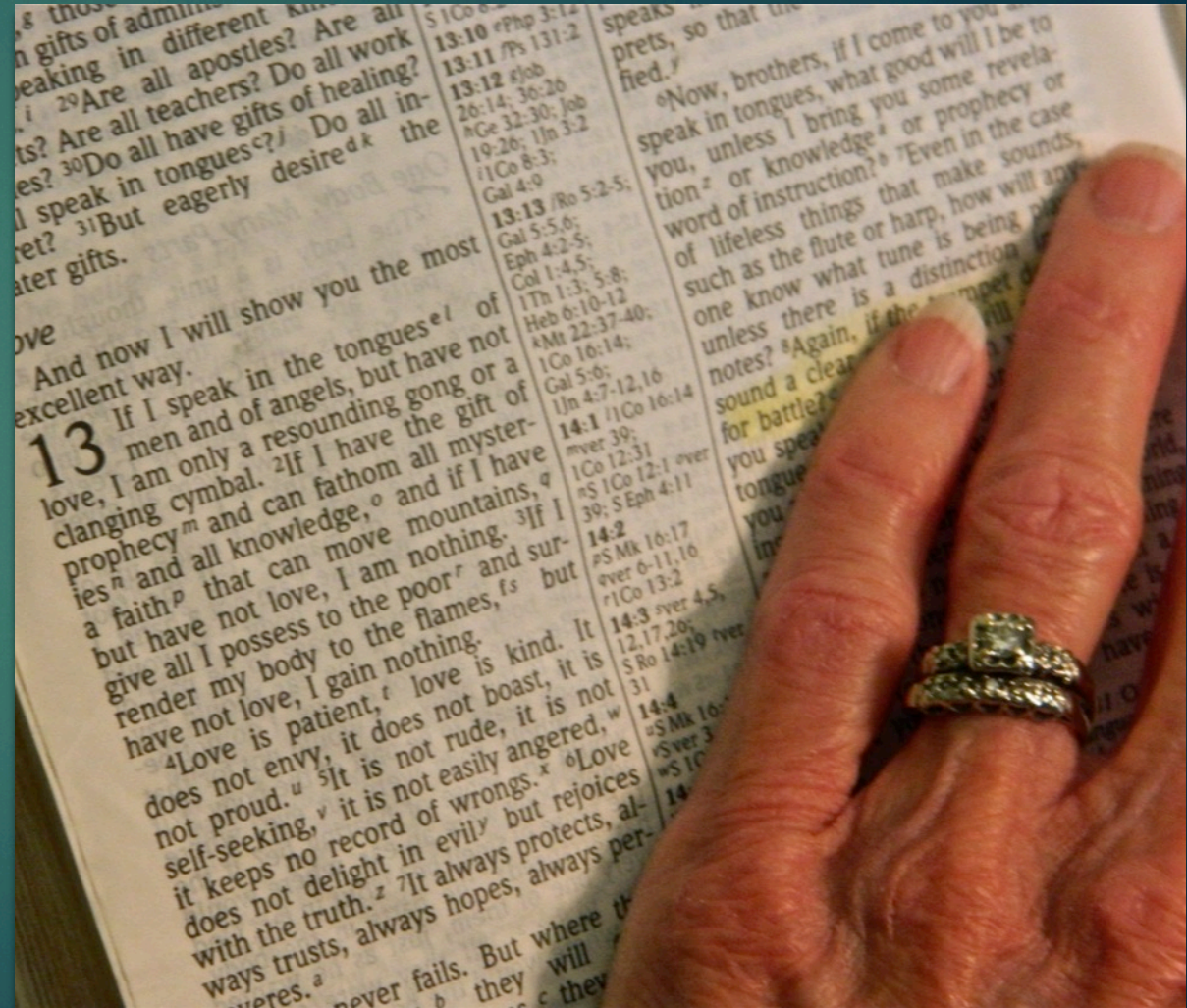
- ▶ Physical Strength
- ▶ Reaction Time, Cognitive Processing
- ▶ All five Senses
- ▶ Mates, Friends, Family Members
- ▶ Independence-Housing & Driving
- ▶ Social Identity

Still Growing Spiritually Through Earthly Losses

Romans 8:19-23

¹⁹ For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed. ²⁰ For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that^[a] the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God.

²² We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. ²³ Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies.



Loss of Social Identity



- ▶ “But, you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who call you out of darkness into his wonderful light.” - 1 Pet. 2:9

Still Growing Through Spiritual Life Review

Romans 8:37

In all these things we
are more than
conquerors through
him who loved us.



Still Growing In Spiritual Community

Romans 8:26-28

²⁶ In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. ²⁷ And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God. ²⁸ And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who^[a] have been called according to his purpose.



Community of Faith and Ministry to Christian with Dementia

- ▶ Even if our voices fail us, the voice of the Spirit and the community of faith do not fail us.
- ▶ Even if we cannot remember who we are, our community of faith and the Spirit remembers who we are.





Still Growing In Grace

1 John

Chap 5 Can Know Salvation

Chap 4 Confidence on Judgment D

Chap 3 Pure as Jesus is Pure

Chap 2 We have an Advocate

Chap 1 Continually Cleaned



Still Growing In Grace

So What?

Because you are continually cleansed, Have an Advocate NOW, Pure as Jesus is pure, and have no fear.....

You can know you have
Salvation



All Grown Up & Still Growing

So...
who are
you going
to be
today?

