

SILVER LININGS

THIS EXERCISE WILL HELP STR



CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)
PACIFIC SOUTHWEST REGION

PSWR OLDER ADULT
MINISTRY COMMITTEE
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ECHOES FROM THE SENIOR ADULT RETREAT AT LOCH LEVEN

On May 19-20, twenty-two Sr. Adults from congregations in the PSW Region gathered at Loch Leven for the 2nd Annual Sr. Adult Retreat. Two additional people participated in this event. They were John Towey, a member of the North Hollywood congregation who presented his one-man adaptation of Steinbeck's novel, Travels with Charley, plus Doug Edwards, Director of Church Outreach, the be.group. John's show was excellent. Doug challenged us to think deeply about "The Third-Half of Life," our retirement years. What follows is a very brief synopsis of the high points from Doug's presentations.

He offered these characteristics for people who want to "age well." First, share life with friends who stretch you. Second, be positive. Third, eat well. Fourth, exercise, i.e. keep your body moving. Fifth, be involved in things that are bigger than you are. Sixth, volunteer to help others, or be part of helping organizations.

He had us look at several texts from the Bible that focus on aging as those created in God's image. They included Psalm 90 with its call for us to "learn to number our days so we can have a heart of wisdom." Ecclesiastes 3 with its pairing of the various times of life, e.g. "a time to be born and a time to die." 2 Corinthians 4 which calls us to "look not at what we can see, but at what cannot be seen; for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal." He gave most of his attention to the story from John 21 in which Jesus asks Peter three times whether or not he loves him. Following Peter's repeated assertions that he does indeed love Jesus, our Lord commissioned Peter: "Feed my sheep." Doug pointed out that Peter accepted this assignment after "retiring from fishing." In other words, Peter did the most important work of his life, **AFTER HE RETIRED!** He also observed that while Paul supported himself as a tentmaker following his transformative experience on the Damascus Road, he **RETIRED** from being a Pharisee. He, too, did his most important work **AFTER HE RETIRED!**

He concluded his two presentations by reminding all of us that the common response of many retired persons when asked to take on a responsibility in the life and work of their congregation, is "I've done that and I'm retired." "This, he said, is a cop-out." Discipleship does not end when we retire. It continues until we breath our last breath! To use retirement as an excuse for not fulfilling our call to be disciples, followers and servants of Jesus Christ, our Lord, is **NOT** acceptable. Those who are retired have unprecedented opportunities to fulfill their calling as disciples/followers/servants of Jesus Christ!

If these ideas are ones you'd like to explore with the Seniors in your congregation, arrange for Doug Edwards to come speak to your Seniors' group. His contact: DOUG.EDWARDS@THEBE.GROUP.ORG.

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HAVE YOU REGISTERED?

One of the finest opportunities for learning about Sr. Adult Ministry is coming on Monday, June 15. That's the day of the Colloquium on Congregational Older Adult Ministry to be held at Walnut Retirement Village, 891 S. Walnut Street in Anaheim. It begins at Noon and ends at 4 P.M.

This event will celebrate the 15th anniversary of the Center for Spirituality and Aging, based at the Walnut Retirement Village. Don Koepke, founder of the Center will begin the day with his thoughts on the importance of ministry to and with older adults by congregations. The colloquium will also include reflections from ongoing congregational older adult ministries which were started as result of Don's training through the program, "Elder Ministry in the Congregation." One of those congregations is First Christian Church, Fullerton. Seven of their members participated in Don's program in 2001 and out of it, together, they launched the church's Sr. Adult Ministry—a ministry that continues 14 years later. The day will close with reflections by Nancy Gordon, current Director of the Center, on "New Paths and Visions for Older Adult Ministry."

Registration is \$25 per participant. However, if 3 people come from the same congregation, the fee drops to \$20 per person. Registration includes a light lunch. To register, call Nancy Gordon at 714-507-1370. Or send her an e-mail at this address: ngordon@frontporch.net. It would be great to have several Disciples' congregations represented at this event.

CALLING ALL SENIOR GOLFERS IN THE PSW REGION

Look for the Registration Brochure for the 2015 Don Shelton Memorial Golf Classic to be in your church's mail box by mid-July. If you played in this golf tournament in the past, you should receive this brochure at your home address. If you don't get one at your home, be sure to speak to your Pastor to see if he/she has a brochure that you can use to register to play in this golf tournament. It will take place on Monday, September 21 at the San Dimas Canyon Golf Course in San Dimas. Check in will begin at 8 A.M. The tournament will begin at 11 A.M. with a shot-gun start.

Registration fees for this tournament will again be \$185 per golfer. Though if you are a first-time participant in this event, the registration fee is just \$100. During the tournament you will participate in these on-course contests: Closest to the Pin, Longest Drive and Straightest Drive. Before the tournament you may participate in the Putting Contest. All of this is included in your registration fee, along with both lunch and dinner.

The proceeds from this golf tournament benefit six important ministries in the PSW Region. They are: All Peoples Community Center, the DOC Students Program at Chapman University, Disciples Seminary Foundation, Eastmont Community Center, Project IMPACT, and the Camp and Conference Scholarship Program.

If you, or your congregation, would like to be a sponsor for the golf tournament, contact Ed Linberg, Chairman, at: emlinberg@earthlink.net. Or, call him at: 909-392-6688 to get more information. Sponsors are welcome to come on board at any time before the golf tournament. However, to have their names listed in the registration brochure, we need to know about them by 6/15. Sponsorships begin at \$25 and go up from there!

FEATURED HYMN

"SPIRIT, COME.
DISPEL OUR SAD-
NESS"

WE ARE SHARING A
HYMN FOR THE
PENTECOST SEASON

"SPIRIT, COME DISPEL
OUR SADNESS;
PIERCE THE CLOUDS
OF NATURE'S NIGHT;
COME, O SOURCE OF
JOY AND GLADNESS,
BREATHE YOUR LIFE
AND SPREAD YOUR
LIGHT. FROM THE
HEIGHT THAT KNOWS
NO MEASURE, AS A
GRACIOUS SHOWER
DESCEND, BRINGING
DOWN THE RICHEST
TREASURE WE CAN
WISH, OR GOD CAN
SEND.

LET YOUR FIRE HEAL
OUR DISSENSION, LET
YOUR FLAME REFINE
OUR GOALS, LET YOUR
PEACE RESOLVE OUR
TENSIONS, SEND
YOUR DOVE TO
SOOTHE OUR SOULS.
LET YOUR WIND FLOW
FRESH WITHIN US,
SWEEPING CLEAN ALL
HATE AND STRIFE
FROM OUR HEARTS; O
COME, AND WIN US
FOR A MORE
ABUNDANT LIFE.
AUTHOR OF THE NEW
CREATION, COME,
ANNOINT US WITH
YOUR POWER. MAKE
OUR HEARTS YOUR
HABITATION; WITH
YOUR GRACE OUR
SPIRITS SHOWER.
HEAR, O HEAR OUR
SUPPLICATION,
BLESSED SPIRIT, GOD
OF PEACE! REST
UPON THIS
CONGREGATION WITH
THE FULLNESS OF
YOUR GRACE."

CHALICE HYMNAL,
NO. 253. WORDS BY
PAUL GERHARDT AND
JANE MARSHALL