

Living Out Our Baptismal Promises in the Second Half of Life
Synod Assembly Workshop
Saturday, June 11, 2016; 2:30 - 3:30 PM

Presented by: Rev. Stephen Kauffman and Margo Walbolt, ALOA Florida Region

I. INTRODUCTION:

- A. ALOA
- B. Second Half of Life
- C. People over 55 will soon make up over a third of U.S. population
By 2020: largest older generation in history

II. Baptismal Covenant

- To live among God's faithful people
- To hear the Word of God and Share in the Lord's Supper
- To proclaim the Good News in Christ through word and deed
- To serve all people following the example of Jesus
- To strive for justice and peace in all the earth

Living our baptism means living a life nurtured by the faith practices of discipleship.

III. Living out these promises in the Second Half of Life

Maturing adults are asking for two things from the Christian community:

Personal relevancy: They want to make a difference and tackle some of the social injustices in our culture.

Interior growth in faith: They want guidance and direction so they can activate their contemplative nature; they desire clear connection between their world experience and the higher call to God.

IV. Maturing Adults:

- Stage of life between midlife adults and older adults brought about by a longer life span as baby boomers age & live into their 80's & 90's
- In general: good health, relative financial stability, and an active, engaged lifestyle
- Seek spiritual growth in a time of significant life transitions
- Search for meaning and purpose in life
- Desire meaningful relationships to talk about spiritual and life issues
- Seek service that is mission driven where they can make a difference
- Seek intergenerational relationships to share their lives, stories, and faith

V. Older Adults: 70 & up

- Engaged with church, community, & family well into their 80's & 90's
- Financial supporters of church - as able
- Prefer a more traditional worship experience with familiar hymns and words
- Desire to stay in their own homes—"age in place"
- Desire to continue to grow spiritually
- Dealing with end of life issues
- Experiencing loss of friends and loved ones as changes in their own bodies
- Value Bible study
- Have grown into a deeper more personal faith

- VI. Model Ministries
 - A. Gray, Green, and Active
 - B. The Village Movement

VII. WEBSITES:

- 1. ALOA: <http://www.aloaserves.org>

Visit this site for downloadable resources:

We'll be posting a compilation of the ideas of today's workshop here!

Also available: **Best Practices for Ministry To and By Senior Adults** is a guide to planning and carrying out ministry, Compiled by Rev. Ken Holdorf, it is filled with tips and real-life experiences

- 2. Boomer Ministry:

<http://amyhanson.org/author/amyhans1/>

- 3. Lifelong Faith Formation: (Resource for research, practices, models & tools)

<http://www.faithformationlearningexchange.net>

- 4. (2010 AARP Study)

[http://www.officeoflifelongfaithformation.org/Portals/8/PDF/Adult Formation/Boomers_Approaching_65_AARP_Study.pdf](http://www.officeoflifelongfaithformation.org/Portals/8/PDF/Adult%20Formation/Boomers_Approaching_65_AARP_Study.pdf)

- 5. Village to Village:

<http://www.vtvnetwork.org>

<http://villagesnw.org/the-national-movement/>

<http://www.beaconhillvillage.org>

AARP: <http://assets.aarp.org/rgcenter/ppi/liv-com/fs177-village.pdf>

- 6. Gray & Green Movement:

<http://grayisgreen.org/our-story/>

<http://www.lutheransrestoringcreation.org>

- 7. Spirituality & Aging:

Johnson Institute: <http://www.senioradultministry.com>

VIII. Books & Publications

Robert C. Atchley: *Spirituality and Aging*

Sharan Benton: *Wisdom Keepers: A Resource for faith Sharing Among Maturing Adults*

Joan Chittister: *The Gift of Years*

Richard Rohr: *Falling Upward*

Mardi Tindal: *Soul Maps*

Robert Wicks: *After 50: Spiritually Embracing Your Own Wisdom Years*

(2010 AARP Study)

[http://www.officeoflifelongfaithformation.org/Portals/8/PDF/Adult Formation/Boomers_Approaching_65_AARP_Study.pdf](http://www.officeoflifelongfaithformation.org/Portals/8/PDF/Adult%20Formation/Boomers_Approaching_65_AARP_Study.pdf)

Churches responding to the Age Wave: Amy Hanson

http://www.faithformationlearningexchange.net/uploads/5/2/4/6/5246709/responding_to_the_age_wave.pdf