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**PRESBYTERY of DES MOINES**  
**Older Adult Ministries (OAM) and Congregational Health Ministry**  
**DECEMBER '09 E-Newsletter**

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The following are ideas brought back from the POAM Conference held recently in Tucson, Arizona:

- **Vacation Bible School for older adults**, using format and songs of their youth – in your church, with other churches, for the community, for nursing facilities. For further information e-mail Older Adult Ministries Task Force Moderator Darlene Shepherd at [dshep@mahaska.org](mailto:dshep@mahaska.org) or call 641-673-5793.
- **A new name for those of our members who are Home Bound: The “IN GROUP.”** Look at [www.JoyfulNoiseletter.com](http://www.JoyfulNoiseletter.com) – printed without advertisements, a reproduceable newsletter is available for local churches. Especially look under “Prints, Cards and Newsletters” – on the right hand side is a picture of a joyful Christ. I don’t recall ever seeing a picture of Christ laughing.
- **In 2010: a way to live simply – share ideas, stories and resources.** Join POAMN – Presbyterian Older Adult Ministries Network – to join Presbyterian groups across the nation in sharing ideas, stores and resources. Go to [www.POAMN.org](http://www.POAMN.org) or contact [dshep@mahaska.org](mailto:dshep@mahaska.org). The cost is minimal. The return is great. Membership gives you access to OAM information, and supports the resources and information that will help build your programs for this group of our church members and friends. Our older third – and more – in our pews and on our rolls face the many problems unique to this age.
- **An idea from the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) General Assembly Moderator Rev. Bruce Reyes-Chow** – If you think it doesn’t matter if you do not visit nursing facilities and home bound people, if a concern voiced receives no response, is the message received that the individuals do not matter?

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**NICA Award Program: Earn Recognition for Your Older Adult Ministry Program**

The NCOA Interfaith Coalition on Aging (NICA) is now accepting applications for the Best Practices in Older Adult Programs and/or Ministry Award. This annual award recognizes programs that meet the spiritual needs of our older citizens. Programs can be in a congregational or “single faith” based setting or a collaborative practice in a multiple faith or multi-cultural setting. One winner in each category will:

- Receive a free registration to the 2010 Aging in America conference in Chicago, March 15-19.
- Present the best practice at the 2010 NICA Wingspread Conference in Chicago, March 15.

The deadline for applications is Dec. 6. Apply today with this link below!

[www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=XW\\_2fcymZcNxxoDF7buoLv9g\\_3d\\_3d](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=XW_2fcymZcNxxoDF7buoLv9g_3d_3d)

The National Council on Aging is a nonprofit service and advocacy organization headquartered in Washington, DC. NCOA is a national voice for older Americans—especially those who are vulnerable and disadvantaged—and the community

organizations that serve them. It brings together nonprofit organizations, businesses, and government to develop creative solutions that improve the lives of all older adults. NCOA works with thousands of organizations across the country to help seniors find jobs and benefits, improve their health, live independently, and remain active in their communities. For more information, visit [www.ncoa.org](http://www.ncoa.org).

**Editors Note:** Quickly passing this along – we need to get the word out on this FAST. This is a great opportunity for lots of visibility for an Older Adult Ministry. This is what our Certification Program applied for last year and was recognized for. If you know of any special programs being done in some churches in your region. Please apply!

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**Egypt Link: Story from a Medical Benevolence Foundation (MBF) Member**

The Church in Zambia Church of Central Africa Presbyterian (CCAP) and the Coptic Church in Egypt where Denise England ministers, have many older members both in need and many very active. In Zambia they are the poor helping the poorest of the poor, widowed and living on less than before, yet they became trained health care workers certified by their country but active through their church reaching out into the community without discrimination. They help the sick, not so much in dying - though many do, but in living day to day improving their dwelling place, helping to provide more nutritious food and making sure medicine is distributed and taken as it should be. "Peter was one such person that came a three week's journey back to an empty family dwelling to die. When Anna, a widow and certified health worker, heard of his presence went hoping he would be her 6 person she could care and love to health. Though death may be held back for only 5, 10, or 20 years, he is now alive in spirit as well as doing better in body." One was old before his time, the other was old, but lived with energy. I met them both.

Though Denise England ministers too many, the Coptic Church of Egypt, is one of the oldest Christian Churches of the world. It is an aging church in Egypt as they cannot seek converts in a nation where the national religion is Islam. A proud member of our Presbytery, we have also placed her on the caring list of Medical Benevolence Foundation (MBF) and informed Dr. Bob Ellis or Louisville that she is in the field. We, MBF, find it helpful that others on the mission field know and care about one another and be cared for.

Grace and peace,  
Rev. Bruce Giese  
United Faith Parish of Platte Center, Diagonal, Tingley

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@[mcknightstcn](#): Online social supports could reduce seniors' depression, save healthcare spending <http://is.gd/4r5P3>

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The Boomer Generation is typically healthier, more educated and wealthier than previous generations... known to be spiritual seekers... what do we do with well-equipped people of God looking for adventure, meaning and purpose? One resource could be: Forty-Sixty: A Study for Midlife Adults Who Want to Make a Difference – order through the United Methodist Church.

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[www.GodlyPlay.com](http://www.GodlyPlay.com)

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