

Ministry of Elders Committee

From the extremely positive response at General Convention and by the work of the National Church's *Older Adult Ministries (OAM) Task Force*, the local the **Ministry of Elders (MoE)** Committee determined it appropriate to take a break and wait for the OAM's final survey results and recommendations for ministry. It is important that our diocese has the opportunity to process, evaluate, and potentially adopt new efforts in senior ministries in the Diocese of Central Florida.

MoEs long time and dedicated members have included: *Dan Murray*, Committee Chair, from Church of the Holy Child, Ormond Beach; *Gayle Coons*, Holy Trinity, Bartow; and, *Barbara R. Keene*, All Saints', Winter Park. Through the years, it is safe to say, our Diocese has maintained well recognized and on-going programs that specifically serve the older parishioner and the family. To focus: rave reviews have come out of MoEs sponsored Laughter and Healing Programs; Caregiver Support Groups are flourishing in the Lakeland, Winter Park, and Ormond/Daytona Beach; and, successful *You and Your Aging Family* seminars draw participants. Opportunities to speak about ministries to older adults has been part of the MoEs mission. Examples include: talks to Stephen Ministers, church guilds, Moms of Preschoolers (MOPS), healing ministries, and to parish Sunday forums and other special events.

The *Interfaith Symposium on Spirituality and Aging* remains a day long seminar that traditionally brings to Central Florida a nationally known speaker and author on the subject of spirituality and aging. Along with local presenters, this year - 2010, the author of *Caresharing* comes Orlando to share her thoughts in from the book and the Symposium's theme: *Quest For Meaning: Faith, Resiliency in Aging Well*. The Symposium is set for the 4th of May 2010. Approximately 200 are expected to register. Our Episcopal Diocese has long been one of the participating communities.

Until recently, Sarah Johnson served as *Older Adult Formation and Ministry at the Episcopal Church Center in New York City*. Sarah worked to compile a reservoir of programs and projects throughout the USA that focus on older adult ministries. Much of Sarah's effort went into the successful reporting at the last General Convention that showed the request for ongoing programs that serve older adults. -Today, if you wish to contact the National Office regarding aging and family matters, you are instructed to contact Ruth-Ann Collins, the staff officer for *Adult Formation*.

In summary, the reader is encouraged to wait for a summative report by clergy or senior wardens who have or will be that are being asked by the *Older Adult Ministries Task Force* about ministries in your parish. For your information: *Bud Holland*, Province VIII and IX, is the Task Force Convener, and *Jeri Sedlar*, Province 11, is Coordinator for *OAM Survey* (Tele: 212-628-1616). - Updates and final outcomes will be published in the local Diocesan paper: *Joe Thoma*, Editor and Communications Officer.

Respectfully - *Barbara R Keene, PhD*
Episcopal Counseling Ctr., Orlando Office