

# MINNESOTA SENIOR ADULT MINISTRIES NEWSLETTER

"I was young and now I am old, yet I have never seen the Lord forsake the righteous...." Psalm 37:25

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**A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR** - Looking back over the past year, I am pleased to have seen attendance at our various events grow. The spring luncheon, seniors' luncheon during family camp, St Croix River luncheon cruise, fall retreat, fall foliage bus trip, and the Sounds of the Seasons dinner/concert at North Central University all saw excellent participation. Thank you for supporting these events! I am eagerly looking forward to seeing our seniors' ministry expand throughout the state. I plan to visit our sectional pastor's meetings this spring; introducing our pastors to the need for a seniors' ministry in their local churches. (Many of our churches do not have a structured senior's ministry)

I am also looking for SAM "Field Representatives"; people who will coordinate seniors' activities in their sections. We have 2 people who have indicated their willingness to serve in this capacity so far. (Meet them on the back side of this letter.) I am still looking for others who may want to step up and serve the seniors in their sections. If you have interest in helping, please give me a call (763-427-7162) or e-mail me at the above e-mail address. I am especially pleased with the three "**Seniors on the Go**" events that we scheduled this past year. There was a good response for each event. We will be planning more outings this coming year. Several of you spoke with me at the Fall Retreat, asking why you couldn't have outings in your 'neck of the woods.' My response was; "**You can!**" We just need folk who would be willing to facilitate those events," hence, the need for our Field Representatives. Another one of my goals is to see what we used to call "**Sectional Fellowship Meetings**" resume. We will be working to develop these in the near future. Even a quarterly event for churches to gather together would afford a time of fellowship and blessing. More about this in our next newsletter after the winter snows have gone! Our next event is the **Senior Spring Luncheon** which will be held on **Saturday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> at noon**. We have scheduled an outstanding luncheon; one you don't want to miss! Hope to see you then! Meanwhile, stay warm, drive carefully and may God bless you with His joy and peace.

**Bruce Talso, Minnesota SAM Director**



## JOIN US FOR OUR SENIOR

**Saturday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> - Beginning at Noon**  
**Cedar Valley Church, Bloomington, MN**



## LUNCHEON

**\$18.00 per ticket**  
**Call to reserve now!**

**Call Myrna Gunderson at 763-533-2278 to reserve your ticket**  
**DEADLINE for securing your tickets is March 25<sup>th</sup>**

*"We are planning a delicious meal with Teen Challenge serving us again. We're looking forward to seeing you! You will enjoy the time of Spiritual refreshing--the wonderful fellowship--meeting with old friends again--singing the old songs. Please contact me at 763-533-2278 as soon as possible."*

*Myrna Gunderson, 'Coordinator'*



### **Jerry & Ginger Dallin - The Songmasters**

Jerry and Ginger are celebrating their 57th year of singing the Gospel together. They are known as the longest continuous singing Southern Gospel group in the Midwest; having traveled extensively, singing the praises of God in churches, crusades, rallies, schools, fairs and television. They have recorded 33 albums. It is Jerry and Ginger's desire to present a refreshing concert of variety and blessing proclaiming the Good news of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. They are no strangers to our A/G churches. We are delighted to have them join us for our spring luncheon. Enjoy "**A little bit of Branson**" here in the upper Midwest!



### **Ron & LaDon Held - Directors Wisconsin/Northern Michigan Senior Ministries**

Ron and LaDon Held have been ministering to 50+ adults since they joined this fast-growing segment of society a few years back. Their current involvement includes helping plan activities for older adults at their home church in Waupaca, Wisconsin as well as rallies for churches in the central Wisconsin area. They also serve as **50+ Adult Ministries Directors** for the Wisconsin/Northern Michigan A/G churches. They are busy promoting ministries for older adults including coordinating the Annual 50+ Retreat. Ron also presents brief monologues based on Biblical characters like Joseph of Nazareth, Simeon, Thomas, Peter, the



Centurion at the cross and others. He will be presenting his new monologue, "**A Prodigal Father and His Two Lost Sons**" at this year's luncheon. The Held's celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in 2012.

## ANNOUNCING TWO OF OUR NEW 'SAM' Field Representatives



**Rev. Howard Googins**  
St Paul, MN  
Representing the  
East Twin Cities Section  
Howard and his wife Myrna, also serve  
on our SAM Committee and coordinate  
our "Seniors on the Go" events.



45 of our seniors enjoyed a delicious meal and a "Sounds of the Seasons" Christmas musical at North Central University on December 5<sup>th</sup>. Chris Fleck, Director of Business Relations was our congenial host for the evening. Larry Bach, Dean of the College of Fine Arts, directed the orchestra and chorale. It was a perfect holiday outing! Comments made by those attending included; "A wonderful evening .....A total success!" Watch for future events to be announced in our next newsletter.

*Howard & Myrna Googins*

**Rev. Loren Molskness**  
Albert Lea, MN  
Representing the Southeast  
Section of Minnesota



**Who Is Before Us?**  
By Loren Molskness

Some years ago, I loved the entrance of a New Year! It was so exciting to thrill at the generous gift of unplotted time. Today, as I look at the uncharted expanse of 2016, my natural reaction is to tremble and pull back, seeing our world in chaos and turmoil. So many things are desperately wrong! I must candidly note that my life span on this earth is swinging toward what we refer to as "declining years." Instinctively, I am more cautious, enjoying past memories more than scary challenges.

I am brought up short by the startling words sent by an old man sitting on death row in a Roman prison. The Apostle shared, "**Forgetting those things that are behind and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 3:13-14)**

Was Paul some sort of hyper-radical that would go to his grave screaming his cause, refusing to quit, whatever? As we study his life and the books he penned, we can come to only one conclusion; that day on the way to Damascus, Jesus indelibly changed Paul's life! From that point on, his entire life centered on the person of Jesus Christ! His passion in life was stated a little earlier in that same chapter, "**That I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings.**" (Philippians 3:10) Identifying with Jesus was the essence of Paul's life!

As we move into 2016, let us keep our focus on Jesus. Instead of trying to "do" let us simply "be" centered in Him. He has called us unto Himself. I recall a phrase in the lyrics of an old song that expresses my desire....."**I want to be what He wants me to be.**" Are we living in our world by "being" Jesus and sharing Him in our environment? The prize is before us I am reaching, Are you?



**SENIOR RESOURCES**  
**A one stop for Minnesota seniors**  
**1-800-333-2433**  
**[www.MinnesotaHelp.info](http://www.MinnesotaHelp.info)**

## **Darrel Amiot,** **Minnesota A/G Stewardship** **Director**



It was an honor to be invited this past year to another senior retreat. In addition to holding a workshop there, I completed a number of private consultations with several clients making requests of our team to review key retirement decisions that were facing them. These were decisions not just for their 'today', but their 'tomorrow' needs as well. Many questions were asked including:

- **What if you don't have the right plan?**
- **What if you did not preserve enough income?**
- **What if your investments do not lead to enough income?**
- **What if your spouse or family members are not covered?**

Since being appointed MN District Steward Director to aid boomers and seniors along with their families, our staff has been trusted to meet with hundreds needing help in a variety of areas. In future articles we will provide knowledge and experience in addressing a number of topics giving you tips which will benefit you, your family or a loved one. Below are just a few "hot" buttons we have dealt with.

- **Health care directives, who is managing your care decisions?**
- **Funeral Trusts and their benefits.**
- **Protecting your estate from higher taxes**
- **Living legacies, what are they and how do I benefit from them?**
- **Down-sizing to the right independent and/or assisted living facility.**
- **....and many, many more topics.**

If you have any questions or wish to schedule a consultation, call me at 612-310-1660, and visit our website at [www.seniorcaresrvs.com](http://www.seniorcaresrvs.com) A blessed New Year to each of you!

*- Darrel*

(Ed note: Darrel has recently joined our SAM Committee)