

Editor's Corner | Down the Road Together



Why do we have so many vital elders in our midst? People who live fully and give fully of themselves? Could it be the harvest of our mission group structures? Or maybe the spiral of call to silence and service, which we know as the inward/outward journey?

Pictures from the birthdays of John Mohr (age 94) and Emmy Lu Daly (age 96) landed on my desk this month, and they made me look around our community to see others over 90 who are still contributing to our life together. Most have been with us a long time, shifting from program management to project involvement as their outward journey becomes more constrained by health and energy. Some, like Eve Tetaz, are still demonstrating and getting arrested. Others, like John and Harriette Mohr, reach out to neighbors in their retirement home. Many have continued their contemplative inner journey as well, assisted by mission group expectations and support. I suspect we are seeing the fruits of long commitment to the inward/outward journey in community.



When my mother stopped driving to church, she dropped out of the life of her congregation. She wasn't in the hospital, so nobody came to visit. She was called periodically by "her" deacon, but the conversations were stilted, and then they stopped. She simply disappeared from view – for what turned out to be 20 years. If I hadn't phoned her regularly, and asked about her sense of call when mobility set those limits, she would not have seen her work as valuable to others. In her final months, in assisted living, she answered my query this way: "I think my call is to bring something decent to the dinner table. I watch the news and bring ONE question to change the conversation. Otherwise, they just complain about the food."

At The Potter's House, Dixcy Bosley-Smith has sponsored periodic Death Café events, to encourage open discussion about the end of life, but our elders are teaching us that there are other issues which precede our final days and they can make a huge contribution to the fullness of our life together. At Seekers, we have a new website, Down the Road*, which is geared to aging issues. Guided by Jacie Wallen, herself a clinical and pastoral social worker, Down the Road is meant to be a resource for the wider community. While there are plenty of practical resources in our society for people who know how to hunt for them, there are not many spiritual communities which emphasize call and commitment in our later years. We hope you will be part of the conversation too.

See www.downtheroad.life OR visit seekerschurch.org and click on Down the Road.

If you'd like to see CALLINGS continue, please make a contribution by check to:

Church of the Saviour

(In Memo line put "Callings")

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