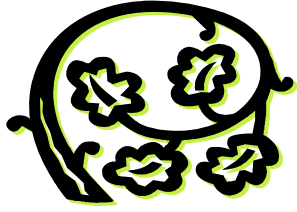


The
VINE



“SENIOR NEWS &
NOTES” by Ande Reiter

The VINE is a monthly column featuring items of spiritual or practical interest to seniors. *The VINE* also carries reports of our super-sleuth, “Mr. Wize”, who operates undercover to detect and to celebrate examples of Older Adult Ministry emerging in the United Church of Christ ..

On Mother’s Day, and Father’s Day, Mr. Wize went to worship at Kirkwood UCC.



Who knew that Senior Ministry could be found alive and well—of all things-- during a Children’s Sermon ??

Yet, there it was when. Barbara Thompson, a very wise and gracious senior laywoman, sat upon the sanctuary steps and began to speak. She translated an old African phrase which meant “**It takes a village to raise a child.**” And thus she reminded us of the global family we live in, and of the Missouri Mid South Conference’s newest partnership in the Congo!!

She acknowledged that families come in varied sizes and patterns. And that some families may have no mother or father at all...

But, by her own genuine reminiscence, by her gift of storytelling and by her assorted bag of “things” , Barbara transmitted something beyond her own unique childhood story. In the mesmerizing moments of sharing, she also was inviting us all, no matter what our ages, to become aware of and to be grateful for the ways in which God graces us unceasingly with the gift of community .

“...I had an older neighbor who reveled with me in our mutual love of dolls”; “With a piece of clay my father would share with us the invisible gift of imagination”

“So, who are the people in your life who have given you some kind of special invisible gift? Think about it and be specific. Be sure to go and thank them for it!”

Reminiscence and story-sharing are some of the most underused gifts of aging and wisdom within our churches’ congregational life. Invite seniors to share their stories and their faith, their life celebrations, and their tales of survivorship with others.. You will reap a surprising harvest of intergenerational blessing if you do.

Contact THE VINE at 314- 795 2743, or email at encourag@sbcglobal.net for resources...(No” e” after the “g”) Or, please tell Mr. Wize about older adult ministry taking place in your congregation.