



## PRIME TIME IDEAS FROM SENIOR ADULT LEADERS

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### **Loveline**

“More than 75 members at First Church have volunteered to call on assigned shut-ins at least twice a week. The project has fostered many inter-generational friendships. This ministry guarantees that our shut-ins are receiving at least three calls a week from members of our church family.”

### **Christmas Wish and Witness**

“This year we are going to our local retirement centers to find elderly seniors who have no family or friends. Our goal is to find out what these seniors would like for Christmas, then pass the gift request along with a picture and profile to church members. The idea is to connect our church family with older people who are lonely and hurting. Our volunteers will be asked to personally deliver the gift and commit to making at least three or more calls on their *adopted* senior during the year.”

### **Christmas Party**

“A lighted, decorative Christmas tree lent a festive air to the room, and the tables were decorated with candles and items all pertaining to the Christmas theme. A Christmas dinner with turkey and trimmings was prepared along with desserts, cookies, punch, and coffee. We had group singing of Christmas songs and shared Christmas stories. The Christmas story from Luke was read and the pastor’s nine year-old son presented a 15 minute piano concert. Seniors told of their happiest Christmas memory.”

### **“Everyday is a Holiday” Weekend Retreat**

“Friday night we started out with a bang, by celebrating the 4<sup>th</sup> of July – with real fireworks. Saturday morning was Christmas morning. When retreaters came to the dining hall for breakfast, they were astounded to see a Christmas tree and Santa Claus present to hand out gifts to everyone. For devotions on Saturday morning, I dressed as a pilgrim and talked briefly about praise before we had testimonies. At noon we had a birthday party with cake and ice cream for dessert. In the afternoon we celebrated Arbor Day and planted a tree in memory of those who had passed away during the year. We also had an Easter egg hunt – only we hunted watermelons instead of eggs! In the evening we celebrated Valentine’s Day with a dress-up banquet by candlelight. New Year’s was celebrated after the service on Saturday evening. Before breakfast on Sunday we had an Easter Sunrise service outside under the trees.”

## **Love Letters**

“About 35 of our senior adults send cards of encouragement to church members who are going through difficult times. Every month they receive a new card with names, addresses and profiles of people who could use a lift. This is a powerful ministry that enables some of our senior adults who cannot get out to remain active in the ministry of the church.”

## **Once a Year Birthday Party**

Decorate 12 tables (round if possible) with appropriate center pieces, place cards, napkins, table service, etc., for each month of the year. Each table will have its own theme. Each person will sit at their own “birth month” table.

Here are some suggestions:

- January – New Year
- February – Valentine’s Day
- March – St. Patrick’s Day
- April – Easter
- May – May Day/Mother’s Day
- June – Weddings
- July – Independence Day
- August – “In the Good Old Summer Time”
- September – School Days
- October – Harvest Time/Halloween
- November – Thanksgiving
- December – Christmas

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