

PC(USA) Resource Centers Celebrate 25th Anniversary

-Mardee Rightmyer, Resource Director

In 1978, before reunion, when the PCUS headquarters were less than a mile from the present presbytery office and the UPCUSA office was in New York City, Jo Bales Gallagher had the vision of creating a network of presbytery resource centers that would provide quality resources for all the churches in a presbytery. The idea caught on and soon presbyteries in both denominations were creating resource centers. With reunion, Jo moved to Louisville and officially set up the network. She then went on to create the National Training Center for Resource Center Directors in Richmond, Virginia, that provides basic, advanced and elective seminars. The NTC also recently created a certification process for resource center directors.

Rev. Arlene Gordon, who recently became the presbytery executive for Tropical Florida, was the second national staff liaison to resource centers. Michael Purinton is the current staff liaison. With the help of an advisory team,

he is currently creating bylaws for an official association of resource center directors that will be voted on in January 2004.

When the old Presbytery of Atlanta was located in the PCUS Headquarters at 341 Ponce de



Shirley Guthrie (left) whose book *Christian Doctrine* has been a classic for 25 years shares a word with his minister, Scott Black Johnston.

Leon Ave., the office was on one end of the first floor of the building. The resource center occupied a space not much larger than a walk in closet! Sue Gladden was the director of the resource center. She remembers being able to stand in the middle of the "room" and reach the shelves on both sides! The move to the offices in the executive office park off of North Druid Hills

Road gave the center a little more room but it became the "step-sister" to the bookstore down the hall. Sue knew her resources, however, and she was a wonderful asset to the presbytery staff where she remained the director until she retired in 1993. Mardee Rightmyer, the current director, took over from Sue and had her turn in moving the center, first to the Druid Hills Presbyterian church and then again into its current location. Mardee serves half time as the director of the presbytery resource center and half time as the synod resource director. Sue Huff works Tuesday-Thursday as the resource center assistant.

There are now 147 resource centers scattered across the country. Most employ part time directors and many have directors who also serve other functions on presbytery staff. The centers continue to be a primary place to find out what resources are available for all areas of ministry in the church. Come celebrate 25 years with us! Drop by to see the resource center and the 7,000+ resource materials available for your use. The PCUSA resource centers are one of the best uses of our stewardship dollars that the denomination has to offer!



The Resource Connection
A resource center of the pcusa, elca and ucc

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FAYETTE PRESBYTERIAN LAUNCHES CARE TEAM MINISTRY

- Sharon Ayers, Care Team Member, Fayette Presbyterian Church (FPC)

Fayette Presbyterian Church has eagerly embraced The Presbyterian Care Team Ministry, a concept that came out of the 212th General Assembly in the year 2000. Its purpose was to "educate, train and empower" congregations in the Care Team model of caring ministry.



FPC Care Team Cheerleaders

A week-end training session was held last fall at Calvin Center by Southeast Regional Trainer for the Office of Health Ministries, PCUSA, in Louisville on Care Team Ministry. Brenda Gales, who "educated, trained and empowered" 12 members of Fayette Church to be members of the first Care Team. This exciting concept was introduced to our congregation via newsletter articles, bulletin announcements, Minutes for Mission from the pulpit and even a "cheerleading" presentation complete with uniforms which spotlighted each of the 12 care team members' special talents. After several months of eager anticipation, we now have "contracts" with two care team partners—two very special people in our congregation—in need of some

of the gifts and talents the Care Team members willingly provide. The Care team has provided for the two care partners: meals, rides to church and doctors' appointments, housecleaning, organizing cupboards, computer help, gardening and lawn help, friendly visits, phone and e-mail contact. It has been a mutually rewarding experience as both Care Team members and care partner express their appreciation of participating in this ministry.

Fayette's Care team is blessed to have several nurses and a mix of lay people with service skills who are genuinely interested in providing for the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of members of our congregation. Our team is co-chaired by two RNs who also volunteer as our parish nurse.

Brenda has provided outstanding guidance and inspiration beginning with the fall training week-end where we learned to function effectively as a team and continuing to the present as she attends our monthly team meetings and offers her insight,

guidance and inspiration.

We are excited to be a part of this new ministry. We feel that we are equipped to respond to the real-life needs of individuals and families who may have a physical disability, a prolonged illness or other limitation or a short-term situation where we may offer assistance. This is a ministry that allows lay people to use their skills and their God-given talents to serve others. We look forward now to the recruitment and training of others who have indicated an interest in becoming Care Team members for our congregation and to training at least one other church who wants to implement the Care Team concept in their congregation.



"We Are Ready"

If you would like information on Care Team Ministry Training contact Brenda Gales at 770.9929.8322 or the Office of Health Ministries, PCUSA at 1.888.728.7228, ext. 5550.

our health ministry in action