



Derry Church

PRESBYTERIAN (USA)

May 1, 2023

Dear friends,

I am excited to share the news that Session has approved hiring Beckie Freiberg as our first Faith Community Nurse. .

Beckie comes to Derry with a wealth of experience in the nursing field, from pediatrics to community health. She knows many in our congregation and is well connected to Penn State Health. She has the knowledge and experience to provide compassionate nursing care, but I think you will most value her genuine interest in people and her passion to care for others. She is easy to connect with and values listening, presence, and relationships. She will be a wonderful addition to our ministry at Derry.

Beckie has worked in many different areas, with diverse cultures and age groups. Her main expertise is in pediatrics: she is a Certified Pediatric Nurse. She has worked in the hospital setting, in home care, in community health, and volunteers in our community and in other countries including Africa.

She and her husband Andy have three adult children (Michael, Diana, and Seth) who grew up at Derry. Beckie and Andy enjoy camping, kayaking, gardening, bee keeping, and travel.

Beckie begins work today on a flexible schedule of 15-18 hours/week, and will start an educational program to become a certified Faith Community Nurse. She will be introduced and commissioned as our Faith Community Nurse in worship on Sunday, May 14, and I invite you to be with us that day to welcome her. Plans are under way for her to visit Country Meadows, Londonderry Village, and Masonic Village with me, so our members living in those communities can meet her. Over the next few months, she will be getting to know our congregation and visiting. To schedule a phone call or visit, contact the church office or email Beckie at care@derrypres.org.

Join me in welcoming Beckie to the Derry Church staff and praying for her as she begins her ministry with us. To learn more about faith community nursing, flip the page.

In common calling,

Rev. Dr. Stephen McKinney-Whitaker
Pastor



INTRODUCTION TO Faith Community Nursing

The church has always been a place of hope and healing, where people turn to in times of need. The Faith Community Nursing program is designed to promote the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of people in the church.

Through this alliance between two healing communities -- the church and health care providers -- the Faith Community Nurse is empowered to foster general improvement in health and wellness by providing screening programs, education seminars, health literature, and support services to those in need.

What is a Faith Community Nurse?

A Faith Community Nurse is a registered nurse who helps members of a congregation reach their optimal level of health and well-being.

The nurse understands the healing mission of the church, accepts the holistic concept of care and promotes wellness and prevention of illness within the congregation.

A Faith Community Nurse is a member of the church staff.



Faith Community Nursing PHILOSOPHY

Faith Community Nursing is based on the concept of holistic health care: being well in mind, body and spirit.

The Faith Community Nurse Program promotes holistic wellness by:

- Visiting church members in their homes, hospital and nursing homes.
- Assisting congregation members in identifying their health needs through surveys and interviews.
- Counseling members on health related issues.
- Serving as a resource person, referring to community resources and assisting in obtaining needed services.
- Coordinating health education classes on a variety of subjects.
- Coordinating health screenings.
- Developing support groups within the church.



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