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Nancy Burke adds new dimension to pastoral care



Just over a year ago, Nancy Burke joined our community as the new Pastoral Care Coordinator. It was an immediate great fit, and Burke soon became a trusted face with a compassionate heart to help residents through the ups and downs of life. She is also an excellent facilitator for interested residents looking to work on their spiritual and/or religious journey.

Burke knew early on that working with older adults was where she meshed and felt her calling. After completing a three year program for the laity that focused on theology, pastoral skills, and spiritual development, she combined

those skills with her experience as a Pastoral Ministries Coordinator at a nearby CCRC and started her new and very rewarding career path. White Horse Village was the lucky beneficiary of her wealth of knowledge.

A large part of her time each week is spent supporting the residents in Healthcare. "Three times a month I have a worship service for residents living in the three healthcare buildings; Four Seasons, Canterbury, and Bridlewood," says Burke. "We also have the *Chaplain's Corner*, where we discuss a different topic or theme each time we meet." The most recent topic was "famous women of faith," which included discussions on Florence Nightingale, Mother Teresa, Rosa Parks, and Harriot Tubman, to name a few.

Her visits with residents in Healthcare are a very meaningful part of her day. "I look forward to my one-on-one visits. That's where I really get to know the residents and their spirituality and how they are finding peace, and hope and comfort in the situation they are in."

This winter Burke held a very well attended six-week workshop, *Well in Body, Wise in Mind, Whole in Spirit*, as well as an eight-week support group for grief and loss. Another support group session is planned for the fall.

For residents who need some one-on-one time, Burke holds regular office hours Monday through Friday, where residents can come to her or she will go to them.

For Burke, the reward of working with older adults is significant. "When you give, you really get back. When you give of yourself, you just feel the love of the residents back."

Burke is always looking to the future. In fact, she is already planning programs for next year, hoping to bring in speakers to talk about different religious practices, starting with Judaism.

"I love this community. It is so friendly, diverse and I just feel it is a privilege to be working with these kind people, especially walking with them on their spiritual journey. That is very personal."