

## Children's honors work of trustee, pastoral volunteer

A small plaque featuring the Children's Haggerty Chapel's stained-glass window will hang prominently in Dr. William J. Carl III's new Pittsburgh office, a daily reminder of the place and the people in whom he has sown so much of his time, wisdom and compassion. Carl was involved in the approval process and building of the Children's Haggerty Chapel and has invested more than two decades of his life broadly in the Dallas community, daily living out his calling.

"Isaiah 40:30-31 always reminds me why pastoral care is so important at Children's: *'Even youths will faint and be weary and the young will fall exhausted, but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength...'*," Carl said. "Pastoral Care encourages everyone in the hospital — patients and staff alike — and it constantly reminds us that patients are far more than just uninteresting appendages to interesting diseases."

Carl has been involved with Children's as a trustee and member of the Pastoral Care Advisory Committee since he came to Texas in 1983 as senior pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Dallas. He continued in these roles until his 2005 move to Pennsylvania to become president of Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. Ten years ago, Carl became chair of the Pastoral Care Advisory Committee, a group of physicians, clergy, lay persons and other staff members from different faith groups that represent the faith community in and out of the hospital to guide ministry at Children's.

"Bill arrived here one month after I started at Children's, back when I was the first and only chaplain. I personally have been mentored by him over the years," said Ron Somers-Clark, Children's director of Pastoral Care. "Throughout the years, it has been an incalculable blessing to have a person of his spiritual stature to provide moral support and a sense of well-being by encouraging Children's in its spiritual ministry to patients, families and staff."

Through First Presbyterian Church, over the years Carl has orchestrated numerous endowment gifts for Pastoral Care at Children's. He has played an active role in directing ministry and has seen Children's through two major accreditation reviews for the Clinical Pastoral Education training program which he helped establish in 1984.

"As a theological educator, he has encouraged students to take pastoral clinical education and had previously taken it himself and has seen the value that programs such as ours offer," Somers-Clark said. "In the time Bill and I have been here, we have had the privilege of helping this program grow from just an idea into a clinical pastoral education program known internationally for excellence and for changing peoples lives."

Through his devotion to the hospital, Carl continued the legacy of support and cooperation between Children's and First Presbyterian Church that began decades ago. In 1921, in cooperation with local pediatricians, the church began offering space to provide free outpatient care for indigent children. The free clinic became the Richmond Freeman Memorial Clinic for outpatients, one of four institutions that merged in 1948 to form Children's.

"Children's is a place with a rich history that inspires tremendous loyalty in the community and the hospital continues to have an amazing effect upon the world," Carl said. □



At a luncheon held in his honor, Dr. William J. Carl III, center, receives a plaque thanking him for his 22 years as a Children's trustee and member of the Pastoral Care Advisory Committee. Presenting the plaque are Ron Somers-Clark, left, director of Pastoral Care at Children's, and Ken Klaveness, Chair-Elect of the Children's Trustee Executive Council.