

“A Place Called Community” Moment for Mission

In Matthew 25:40 Jesus tells us that “in as much as you have done it for the least of these, you have done it for me.” That command to be in **community** with others in need, challenges us to be the **hope** for those who are vulnerable. God's love motivates us and his Holy Spirit directs us to serve.

It is a challenge *to be in community* when COVID-19 coronavirus necessitates social distancing and self-isolation. But Presbyterian Homes of Georgia has done just that. They have faithfully stayed on the front line in the battle against the virus, serving the most vulnerable population among us, our seniors.

Presbyterian Homes’ ministry was built on **hope**. On a Sunday after church in 1943, an elderly congregant, Corin Hubert, asked her pastor a question that changed the lives of God’s seniors in the state of Georgia forever. She asked, “Does our church have a place that cares for older members who do not want to become a burden to their family and friends?” That day, **hope** for a place such as Presbyterian Homes of Georgia to care for seniors, was born.

Presbyterian Homes of Georgia is a ministry that is a source of hope, even in times of extraordinary heroic work performed during this time of virus spread. There is security in knowing that the highest quality of care will be provided with the assurance of continuing that care, even for the neediest residents. *For 71 years Presbyterian Homes of Georgia has never asked anyone to leave because they have outlived their financial resources.* It’s who Presbyterian Homes of Georgia is. It’s who you, the church, has helped them to be, through 71 years of ministry. That charitable commitment has been maintained because all of us have partnered to provide care.

Together, we give **hope** to those who need us, even though it costs \$3 million dollars each year to provide that charitable care.

Your *Caring Hands* Mother's Day gift provides the security of high-quality care for 40% of residents who have outlived their financial resources. Each gift expresses a profound faith in **community** and provides **hope** for our residents. Each time you give, you make a statement of faith and demonstrate that you are living Matthew 25:40.

It's easy to give. Go to our church website and click on the Presbyterian Homes of Georgia post to make your gift. Change a life! Give to *Caring Hands*!

“Make A Difference by Serving the Least of These” Moment for Mission

The spread of the COVID-19 coronavirus has altered our lives. Social-distancing, self-isolation and non-essential travel, are restrictions that few of us would have dreamed we would ever experience. Life has been upended by a microscopic virus.

But on the front lines, one of our mission partners, Presbyterian Homes of Georgia, steadfastly works to serve the most vulnerable among us: our seniors. Presbyterian Homes of Georgia cannot work remotely or social distance. Dedicated staff members come to work each day determined to keep seniors safe and healthy and provide the best care possible.

Now, we can help the Presbyterian Homes of Georgia ministry by giving to the *Caring Hands* Offering. Together we can make a difference in the lives of senior adults living at Presbyterian Homes of Georgia and help keep a 71-year promise *that no resident will be asked to leave because they have outlived their financial means.*

Presbyterian Homes provides a life-long home to more than 1,000 senior residents at five Georgia retirement communities. When the sixth community, scheduled to open late this year in Athens is operational, the number of seniors served by Presbyterian Homes will grow to 1,500.

Forty percent of residents in Presbyterian Homes of Georgia retirement communities depend upon charitable care from the *Caring Hands Fund*. More than \$3 million dollars is needed to fund charitable care this year.

Today, we join other Presbyterian congregations across Georgia in giving to the *Caring Hands Fund* with our offering. Give generously! It’s easy, just go to our church website and click on the Presbyterian Homes of Georgia post ‘s donate button.

Give to support this vital ministry that cares for our seniors at this extraordinary time of challenge. Today, I'd like to challenge you to live Matthew 25:40 where we are asked to serve the least of these.

Serve the least of these and through your service, serve Christ.

“Words Your Mother Taught You” Moment for Mission

What words did your mother teach you? After all, Mothers *are* our first teachers. They instill in us qualities that become part of the fabric of who we are. The words we learn from them resonate in our very being.

My mother taught three special words: **Faith, Service and Love.**

She said: **Faith** carries you through hard times. At this moment, the COVID-19 coronavirus is testing the faith of many of us. But we should step out in faith, rely on God, live rightly and stay focused on what is truly important...even if we must self-distance and wash our hands.

What’s important? She said that **service** is important. **Service**, by its very action, causes us to step out of our self-absorption and provides the opportunity to live Matthew 25:40 which says that *“in as much as you have done this to the least of these... you have done it to me.”*

How do you serve in a time of COVID-19 coronavirus? My Mother would encourage us to **Serve in Love** -- the act of faithfully fulfilling hope through devotion.

Faith, Service and Love – These are Words our Mothers taught us by living them.

Today, I ask that you live those words by showing **Faith, Service and Love.** Give generously to the *Caring Hands* Offering to benefit the Presbyterian Homes of Georgia’s *Caring Hands Fund*. This ministry serves on the front lines of the COVID-19 coronavirus battle, caring for our most vulnerable population – seniors.

Give to help provide for mothers and others who have out-lived their financial resources who reside in long-term care in Presbyterian Homes of Georgia’s senior communities. Keep a 71-year old promise that no resident will have to leave because they have outlived their financial means.

It's easy. Just go to our church website and click on the Presbyterian Homes of Georgia post to make your gift. Please give generously to help vulnerable seniors and show your **Faith, Service** and **Love.**