

'Some patients have no other place to turn'³

By John Becton

Compassion.

"That one word sums up a whole lot," Richard Thigpen says of the key word he included in the name of a special chaplain's discretionary fund.

"There's a glimpse of this man in the name of the Fund," Chaplain Wes Aitken says of Thigpen.

The Chaplain's Fund for Compassion was established in 1963 with funds contributed by Richard E. and Dorothy D. Thigpen and others, in memory of Dorothy Thigpen Elliot.

The income of the Fund is used "with no strings attached" by the hospital chaplains to help meet patients' needs which are not otherwise met, Thigpen explained.

Something that may seem trivial

Some ways this resource is used include pastoral care of patients and members of their families, special events or services in the hospital's Allen Memorial Chapel and personal expense items not covered by any other fund or agency.

"Some patients have no other place to turn," Thigpen said.

Beyond the excellent medical and nursing care patients receive here, "there is a point where they need someone to take them by the hand and do something that may seem trivial, but is very important to their spiritual and emotional well being," Thigpen believes.

Cleland provided pastoral hand

The Thigpens found a compassionate hand to hold at a crucial time in the late 50s, when their daughter was being treated here for cancer.

"The ministry of Dr. (James T.) Cleland meant so much to Dorothy," Mrs. Thigpen said.

Cleland, now retired, was dean of the chapel at that time and was actively involved with the medical center.

Expression of concern

Shortly after their daughter's death in 1959, "we began contributing through

Dr. Cleland to the chaplain's fund of the hospital," Thigpen said.

The contributions were made as a memorial gift and as an expression of concern for others who would face tragedy, with the hope that similar expressions of concern would be stimulated.

"The Fund for Compassion was formalized four years later because it

occurred to me that it needed more organization," Thigpen noted.

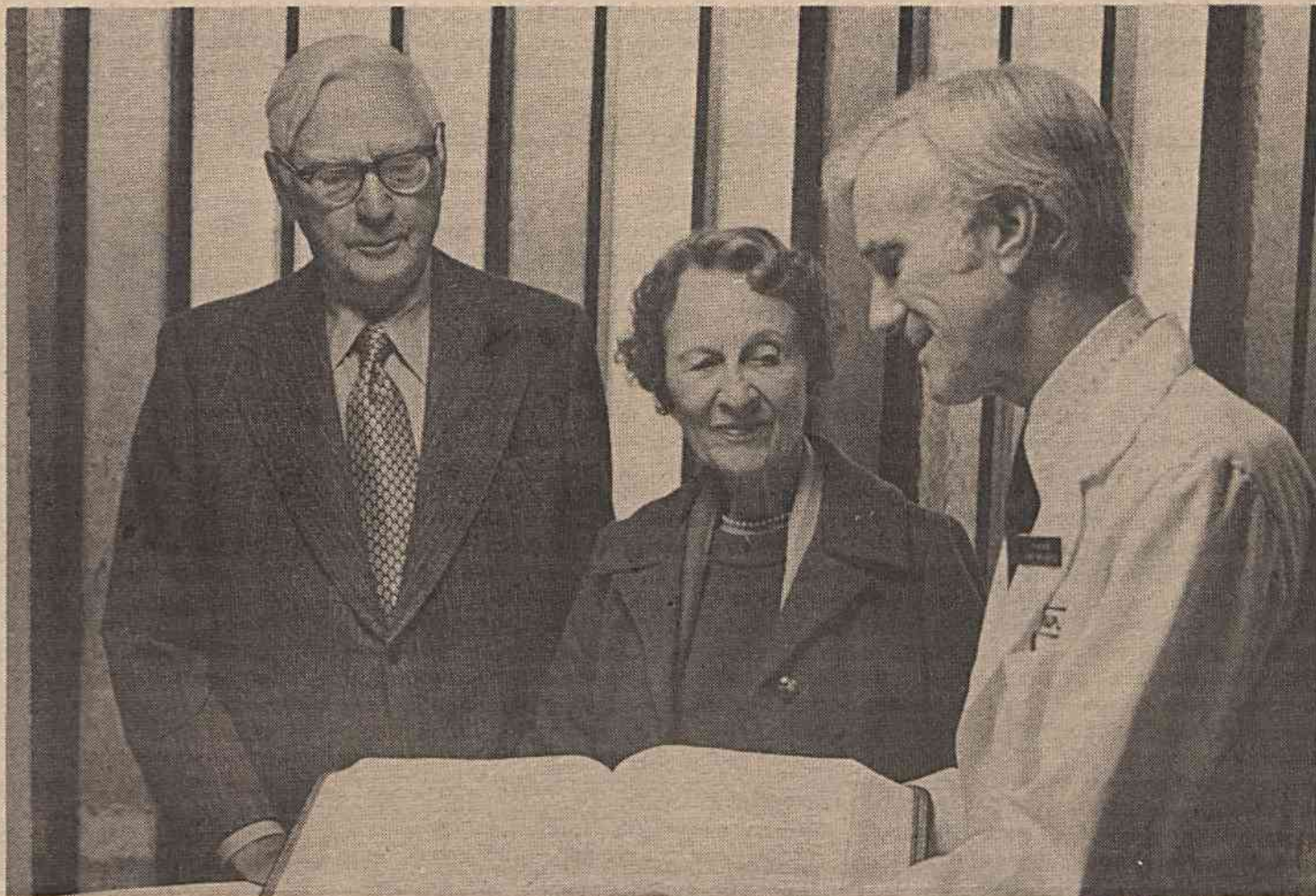
Participation invited

The Duke alumnus retired in 1966 after practicing law in Charlotte for 33 years. He served on the University Board of Trustees for 20 years, and all three of his children attended Duke, as did Mrs. Thigpen.

The founders of the Fund for

Compassion intended it to be an expression of the compassion of many people as a memorial to many others.

Gifts may be undesignated, given in memory of the dead or given in honor of the living, and may be sent to Rev. P. Wesley Aitken, Chaplains Service, Duke University Medical Center, Durham, N.C. 27710. Contributions should be payable to Duke University.



THE MOST WORN PAGE in the Allen Memorial Chapel Bible contains Psalm 23. At the suggestion of Richard Thigpen (left) extra copies of the Psalm have been made available in the chapel. Also shown with the most

worn page are Dorothy Thigpen and Rev. Wes Aitken. The Thigpens established the Fund for Compassion, which is administered by Aitken's office. (Photo by John Becton)

On tour today

Twenty-eight students from the health occupations class at Harnett Central High School in Angier and their teacher, Kathy Bradley, are touring the medical center today.

Professional News



Richard B. Hayes, director of medical center development, has received the designation of Fellow from the National Association for Hospital Development (NAHD).

This honor represents the highest accreditation in hospital fund raising and is granted on the basis of peer review,

performance evaluation and extensive written and oral examination.

Hayes was one of 12 persons throughout the United States who were made Fellows at a ceremony held in Boston in October.

The NAHD is a professional organization for the continuing education, improved performance and professional growth of its members. It also seeks increased understanding of the development function.

Dr. Ronald Krueger spent three weeks in Poland in October as a pediatric nephrology and urology consultant to the Pediatric Institute in Krakow. The visit was sponsored by Project Hope and the Polish Ministry of Health.

The purpose of his work was to evaluate the institute and assist physicians there in



KRUEGER



SPOCK

preparing to perform pediatric renal dialysis and begin kidney transplants in children.

Krueger, who is an assistant professor of pediatrics and urology, also spent time with pediatric urology surgeons evaluating the urology program and instructing in needle biopsy of kidneys in children.

Some doctors from Poland will be coming here in the spring to spend several weeks in study and observation, and Krueger said a team from here will be returning to Poland later next year to assist in that country's first pediatric kidney transplant.

Dr. Alexander Spock, professor of pediatrics, is advisor to Project Hope in Poland. He was in Poland several months earlier than Krueger's visit and will be returning there for additional consultation next year.

concerning others.

Peter Keese, assistant chaplain at the medical center, will begin the series with a talk on "The Ultimate in Community Care: The Hospice," on Wednesday, Dec. 14, at 7:30 p.m. at Duke Memorial United Methodist Church.

The series will continue with panel discussions of the physical, social and emotional aspects of community based care. Meetings Jan. 25 and April 26 will be in Chapel Hill. The March 8 discussion will be at Duke Memorial United Methodist Church.

As president of Hospice of North Carolina, Inc., Keese will describe what a hospice is and what is being done in North Carolina.

"The philosophy of a hospice is to enhance the quality of life until death

occurs," Keese said. "It provides sophisticated management of pain and other symptoms so that the patient can remain comfortable and awake.

"The hospice sees the patient and family as the unit of care, and it provides a bereavement follow-up service," he said.

Care of the patient and family can be provided either through home care or at an inpatient facility, Keese said. There are chapters or interested groups in seven North Carolina cities so far, and he hopes one or two places will be offering care within the next 12 months.

The public is invited to attend the speaker series without charge. For more information, contact Bev Rosen, director of the oncology social work program at Duke's Comprehensive Cancer Center, 684-5201.

Community loses two members, Mrs. Clark, Mrs. Pickrell

Two long-time members of the medical center community died last Tuesday, Nov. 29.

They were Helen Greene Clark, the first formally trained medical secretary here, and Katherine Council Pickrell, who was the wife of Dr. Kenneth L. Pickrell, professor and former chairman of the Division of Plastic, Maxillofacial and Oral Surgery.

Mrs. Clark came to work at the medical center in 1934, and her work included serving as secretary to Duke's first psychiatrist, Dr. Raymond Crispell.

She was the wife of Elon Clark, who established what is now the Division of Audiovisual Education and served on the faculty until his retirement three years ago.

Survivors in addition to her husband include three daughters, four sisters and five grandchildren.

Mrs. Pickrell is survived by her husband, four daughters and six grandchildren.

Both deaths occurred in Duke Hospital following extended illnesses.