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## 2001 Parish nurse Catawba County

Parish nursing focus of program for Senior Network

By MONTE MITCHELL

*Staff Writer*

CONOVER – Catawba Memorial Hospital's parish nursing program links up nurses and churches, offering visits in the church or home for health advice, counseling other services.

Parish nurses Pam Lowdermilk and Catherine Tinkelenberg will tell people about their ministry, in a special program at the YMCA. The meeting will begin at 10 a.m. Jan. 31 at the Adrian L. Shuford YMCA Senior Center.

Lowdermilk says a parish nurse helps a pastor keep up with what the needs are in a church community.

"With prayer and caring, it does make a difference in someone's health," she said.

Parish nurses don't do "invasive procedures such as giving shots or packing wounds. Tasks like that are left to home health care agencies.

Instead, the parish nurse may offer assessment or counseling, answer questions and be a link between the medical community and the faith community.

A parish nurse, for instance, might accompany an elderly person to the doctor's office, making sure he or she understands what's happening.

Parish nurses Lowdermilk and Tinklenberg will tell more about what they do during the program at the YMCA.

The meeting is offered as part of the Senior Network, a communication forum for senior issues. Representatives from any senior organizations are encouraged to attend, as well as any interested individual.

The Senior Network is the Community Alternatives Program Advisory Committee for the Catawba County Department of Social Services. For more information, call Tami Hefner at DSS at 695-5619.