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MEDIA ADVISORY
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**PITTSBURGH MERCY HEALTH SYSTEM
TO COMMISSION 17 NEW PARISH NURSES AND 3 HEALTH MINISTERS**

- WHAT:** Mercy Parish Nurse and Health Ministry Program commissioning ceremony
- WHO:** Representatives from the **Mercy Parish Nurse and Health Ministry Program** and **Pittsburgh Mercy Health System** will commission 20 parish nurses and health ministers from a variety of faith communities (including 3 Baptists, 1 Methodist, 3 Lutherans, 6 Catholics, 1 Full Gospel, 2 Presbyterians, 1 Episcopalian, 1 Anglican, 2 Non-denominational; and 1 AME).
- WHEN:** **Saturday, June 12, 2010, from 3:15 to 3:45 p.m.**
- WHERE:** Beulah Presbyterian Church's historic, original chapel, 2500 McCrady Rd. in Churchill (to the left of the church parking lot)
- WHY:** The class of 20 recently completed the four-day Parish Nurse Basic Preparation Course. Offered locally twice a year by the Mercy Parish Nurse and Health Ministry Program, the course consists of 30 hours of education in wholistic approaches to faith and health; medical ethics; family violence; suffering, grief and loss; coordination of care; advocacy; and more. Sponsored by the Pittsburgh Mercy Health System, the Mercy Parish Nurse and Health Ministry Program is a regional resource for education and information for area churches and other faith communities. The program — one of the first of its kind in the United States — was established by Pittsburgh Mercy Health System in 1991. Since 2001, the program has commissioned over 200 parish nurses and health ministers. The newly commissioned class of parish nurse and health ministers will voluntarily serve their faith communities by providing health education, personal health counseling, referrals to health and social services in the community, developing support groups, and more. The next Parish Nurse Basic Preparation Course will be held Oct. 1-2 and Nov. 5-6, 2010. For more information, contact the Mercy Parish Nurse and Health Ministry Program at 412.232.5815 or visit www.pmhs.org.

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