The Congregational Nurse and Health Ministry Program of the Shepherd’s Center of Greater Winston-Salem was started in 2009 to educate faith communities and their health ministries about the benefits of health promotion and faith community nursing, to provide support to faith communities as they develop and foster their unique health ministries, to ongoing network for faith community nurses and health and wellness leaders. The program partners with both local hospital systems, Winston-Salem State University, and many other community agencies to achieve its objectives.

Judy Iannuzzi became the director of the program in January 2011. She received her BS degree in nursing from UNC-Chapel Hill, her Master’s Degree in education from Wake Forest University. She is a licensed registered nurse and a trained Faith Community Nurse. She has also been trained by the International Parish Nurse Resource Center to teach the Foundations of Faith Community Nursing Course.

Faith Community Nursing is a recognized specialty practice that combines professional nursing and health ministry. It emphasizes health and wholeness by integrating medical knowledge, behavioral science and pastoral care. The foundational concept of health is a sense of physical, social, psychological and spiritual well-being, as well as a sense of living in harmony with God, self, and others.

The Faith Community Nurse’s roles include:
- **Integrator of faith and health:** assisting people to achieve a higher level of wellness by connecting the close relationship between spiritual and physical health.
- **Health counselor:** discussing health concerns with members of the congregation and making home or hospital visits as needed.
- **Health educator:** promoting an understanding of the relationship between lifestyle, attitudes, faith, and well-being.
- **Referral advisor:** helping people utilize community resources and services in addressing their health needs.
- **Volunteer coordinator:** recruiting and coordinating volunteers and support groups within the faith community to support the health ministry objectives of the faith community.

The CNHM Nurse Network meets monthly for continuing education and a time of fellowship. Network nurses do monthly blood pressure screenings and health referrals at the WS Transit Authority’s downtown bus station, regular blood pressure screenings at several local food pantries and arrange for additional screening events as needs arise. The Foundations of Faith Community Nursing course is a 34 hour training offered once a year by the CNHM Program. The course will be held October 16 – 20, 2012 and hosted by Ardmore Baptist Church.

The Shepherd’s Center of Greater Winston-Salem is located at 1700 Ebert Street, Winston-Salem, NC 27105. Their telephone number is (336) 748-0217. You can learn more about the Shepherd’s Center by checking out their website at www.shepherdscenter.org. Judy Iannuzzi can be reached by phone or email at jiannuzzi@shepherdscenter.org.