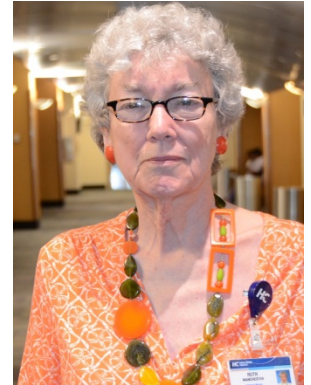




Ruth Manchester
Clinical Nurse, PRN
IV Therapy
Celebrates 40 years at Holy Cross in 2017



Ruth came to Holy Cross Health because she saw an ad for a weekend floater in *The Washington Post*. "Since I had a small child, that position looked enticing as then I wouldn't have to hire a babysitter," she said. She quit a year later upon learning another child was on the way, but returned in 1977 and has been in continuous service since.

Ruth appreciated a flexible schedule. "With two small children and no family, except my husband, on the East coast, I was glad Holy Cross Hospital let me work night shift and weekends so I could keep babysitting to a minimum," she said. She also appreciated the flexibility when she attended graduate school.

From the beginning of her nursing career until now, Ruth feels that PICC (peripherally inserted central catheter) lines and in-home nursing care have been wonderful advances. "Patients don't have to sit around the hospital receiving treatment when they can be cared for at home," she said.

But Ruth recalled that instituting use of PICC lines at Holy Cross Hospital was no easy matter. "I appeared before the Medical and Surgical focus groups, presented my case, wrote protocols, and taught other nurses how to care for patients with PICC lines," she said. Then Bard Access Systems asked her to teach nurses in other areas how to insert PICC lines, so she traveled far and wide.

In 1991, Ruth started the IV Team. "The chance to start a new venture at HCH gave me a chance to use the skills I had learned in oncology nursing. I applied for certification after a year on the job and passed! I also was certified in oncology, so that gave me a feeling of credibility when I drafted protocols."

Another high point for Ruth was in 2012 when she was selected to receive a Legacy Society Award. This Holy Cross Health Foundation program selected and honored people who have made a significant and lasting impact on Holy Cross Health.

Ruth's advice for new nurses: "Hang in there! There will be discouraging moments. Use your skills and knowledge to the best of your ability. If you don't know something, research it. Develop friendships."