Introduction
The realm of parish nursing, whereby a nurse is integrated into a faith community is a burgeoning field in community health. Congregations in both the developed and developing world are seeing the importance of health promotion and health protection, including health spirituality. Furthermore, given cutsbacks in the medical system, getting attention from a health professional is increasingly difficult unless one is seriously ill. A parish nurse can step into this vacuum of care. Especially in resource-poor communities, where each citizen has access to care is the greater, parish nursing can be an effective tool towards promoting community health.

To better understand the role and function of parish nurses today, I conducted a series of interviews with leaders in parish nursing from both Duke Divinity School and Methodist Healthcare Ministries of South Texas, Inc (MHM) in San Antonio. I found significant and creative variations on the model of parish nursing in both settings, embodied by Duke’s “Congregational Health Ministries” and MHM’s “Wesley Nurse Program”.

Interview Format
While there is some excellent literature on parish nursing, most of it is directed towards those who wish to start a parish nursing in a congregation. To address a broader range of issues, and to look at specific programs in-depth, I conducted a series of interviews with leaders in parish nursing in both settings, embodied by Duke’s “Congregational Health Ministries” and MHM’s “Wesley Nurse Program”.

What is parish nursing? The basics
1. Parish Nurses wear many hats, Granger Westberg, the father of parish nursing, outlined seven functions for the parish nurse: health educator, pastoral counselor, health advocate, interfaith, interdisciplinary, referral agent, and spiritual advocate. This map may complement how the parish nurse can take on each role.

Organizational features

What is a parish nurse? A nurse to emphasize wellness, disease prevention and health promotion, including health spirituality, regardless of religious practice. The nurse acts as a “hub,” connecting people and needs from various disciplines (Brischtsch). The nurses’ familiarity with science and spirit serves as a dual qualification for health promotion (Devins).

A day in the life...
Lauder Heights Youth Center: Borns from a partnership with the San Antonio Youth Council, VMAC, and Lauder Heights United Methodist Church, this campus provides life enrichment opportunities for life enrichment opportunities for children. VMAC staff work in the ambulatory care setting to provide primary and emergency care, mental health care, and spiritual care. Nurses work in collaboration with other disciplines to provide care to underserved populations.

Bedford, Although initially established at the United Methodist Church, Wesley Nurses are not Beatitude (or any Christian denomination). Faithful spiritual training allows Wesley Nurses to personify the idea to treat the patient rather than a spiritual context of any religious practice.

Caring Communities Program, Duke Divinity School
Help churches, communities, nonprofits, and healthcare systems develop infrastructure for care management programs.

What is parish nursing? (Parke)
Practical and comprehensive tools and support programs.

Health Educator
Can you help me through this? Can you take my blood pressure for me?
Yes, I can

Referral Agent
I have a concern that you can’t help me solve, can you point me in the right direction for help?
Yes, I can

Personal Health Counselor
I am grieving for a list one the church. Can you help me through this?
Yes, I can

Interfaith of Health and Nursing
I used to say that my faith is nothing because of my health. Can you help?
Yes, I can

Developer of Support Groups
I am planning for a 5k run. Can you help me with this?
Yes, I can

Interdisciplinary:...