



Peachtree Christian Hospice, Inc.

Historical Data

The concept of Peachtree Christian Hospice came into focus when **Peachtree Christian Church** began to explore the idea of expanding its Signature Community Ministries. These ministries would benefit all of Greater Atlanta and its surrounding communities. The foundation and planning for the Hospice Ministry began in late Spring of 1998 when **Mr. D. Scott Hudgens** approached **Dr. Jim Collins**, then Senior Pastor of Peachtree Christian Church. He shared with Dr. Collins his dream of building a Hospice for the terminally ill in his beloved community of Gwinnett County. Mr. Hudgens' dream of building such a Center clearly coincided with Dr. Collins' desire to expand Peachtree Christian's ministries far beyond midtown and raise the level of community awareness of the goodness and love that existed within Peachtree Christian Church.

Mr. Hudgens offered to fund the cost of building the Hospice and would also donate the land on which to build, if Peachtree Christian Church would sponsor it. Dr. Collins and the people of Peachtree readily accepted Mr. Hudgens' challenge. Under the able leadership of **Bill and Martha Todd**, the Hospice Working Committee was formed, later to become the Peachtree Christian Hospice Board of Directors. This Board consisted of a committed group of Christian men and women dedicated to the project at hand. Subcommittees were formed and feasibility and 'needs' studies began.

All surveys clearly indicated this hospice was not only *necessary*, but was *crucial* to the area and the needs of the community. Facts and figures were presented to the people of Peachtree Christian Church, and they quickly accepted it as a ministry of hope and a mission of love.

As soon as the challenge was accepted, a nationwide search was launched for a healthcare organization to assist in making Peachtree Christian Hospice a state-of-the-art center. It was not only important that the organization selected provide excellent medical care to the patients, but one which also shared our Christian philosophy and our mission in how best to bring comfort to the patients and their loved ones. Very early in the search, it became abundantly clear that United Hospice, now named PruittHealth Hospice, *could* and *would* meet our qualifications. Indeed, they have exceeded all expectations.

April 14, 1999 Peachtree Christian Hospice was incorporated and a Board of Directors was thereby elected.

August 29, 1999 Groundbreaking Ceremonies were held at 3430 Duluth Park Lane, Duluth, Georgia.

October 22, 2000 - Grand Opening was celebrated in a dedication ceremony and the doors of Peachtree Christian Hospice were officially opened. **The people of Peachtree Christian Church and members of the Gwinnett community** came together to celebrate this much-needed facility.

The Building... Total cost of the building was \$2,889,838 (excluding furnishings and accessories) **which was funded by our Benefactor, Mr. D. Scott Hudgens.**

The Property... The **8.7** acres of land, also donated by Mr. Hudgens, was appraised at \$1,015,000. **The Interior Design Committee was headed by the late Mr. William N. Scott of BDA Interiors.** Mr. Scott was a member of the Board of Directors of Peachtree Christian Hospice and was assisted by **Interior Designer, Mrs. Sally Holcombe.**

A large portion of the original art throughout the Hospice was procured by **Mrs. Shirley Arnold of Gainesville, Georgia.** Mrs. Arnold had experienced the loss of a son in early 1999. While ill, he was under the care of a hospice in Florida. She was so grateful for the fine care he received, she wanted to somehow give back something to Hospice. One of Mrs. Arnold's works of art is displayed over the fireplace in the Reception Area. Other examples of her work are in the South Wing corridor. So touched by the serenity of the Hospice and the mission of Peachtree Christian Church, Mrs. Arnold encouraged her artist friends to join her by filling the Hospice with their beautiful works of art. There are over 80 pieces of art contributed by North Georgia artists. Many other gifts of art and furnishings contributed by generous members and friends of Peachtree Christian Church can be found throughout the Hospice.

The rudimentary floor plan was conceived by Bill and Martha Todd and subsequently approved by the original Peachtree Christian Hospice Task Force, **but technically designed and refined into a place of beauty** and made *hospice functional* by **Mr. Thomas O. Ramsey, Chairman of Stevens & Wilkinson located in Atlanta.** Stevens and Wilkinson is an outstanding and highly respected Georgia architectural firm that has enjoyed a fine reputation throughout the Southeast for more than eighty years. The building was constructed by **The Griffin Company**, also of Atlanta, Georgia.

The building is 18,342 square feet in size and is considered by most professionals one of the finest hospice centers in the nation. The Center surrounds a courtyard filled with beautiful trees, plants, two ponds, a gazebo, and seasonal flower gardens. There are 12 spacious patient rooms with private baths; two family areas; two family baths; a family laundry; two quiet parlors; a large commercial kitchen; a formal dining room for special occasions; a beautiful reception area; a chapel; and an extensive administrative wing.

It was with great sadness that Peachtree Christian Hospice lost its beloved Co-Chair of the Board, William N. Todd, Sr., who passed away on January 22, 2013. Also sadly, Martha S. Todd suffered a stroke in August 2016. In recognition of her leadership and years of service, the Peachtree Christian Hospice, Inc. Board of Directors named her "President Emeritus".

The Peachtree Christian Hospice Board of Directors:

Mr. J. Scot Kirkpatrick, Chairman

Mrs. Anne M. Mancini, President

Mr. Jeff Busbee, Vice-President

Mrs. Jan L. DeSalvo, Treasurer

Ms. Dianne D. Watson, Secretary

Dr. Joseph H. Barnes

Mr. Barry W. Burt

Mr. Frank M. Circelli

Mr. Robert P. Dutlinger

Mr. Jim Ellis

Mr. Michael Hinterschied

Mrs. Barbara D. Howard

Ms. Suzanne M. Hudgens

Re. Jarrod Longbons

Mr. James J. Maran

Peachtree Christian Hospice, Inc. is committed to giving the best possible care to patients with a life-limiting illness, and to assure they are surrounded by kindness. This care is also extended to their families and loved ones by a professional staff that lends emotional and spiritual support as well. The PruittHealth Hospice Staff and the Peachtree Christian Hospice, Inc. Board of Directors are a group of Christian men and women dedicated to continuing this mission, and maintaining a beautiful and *loving place of rest, comfort and hope* to individuals at a most difficult time in their lives.