

A Congregational Domestic Violence Training Plan Black Mountain Presbyterian Church

Black Mountain, NC

After researching a variety of training materials we decided on utilizing several pieces of curriculum from the FaithTrust Institute (formerly the Center for the Prevention of Sexual and Domestic Violence) of Seattle, Washington. We applied to the Presbytery of Western North Carolina's Peace and Justice Committee for a grant to fund the purchase of curriculum and received half the cost of the curriculum. The other half came from the 25 % of an annual Peacemaking Offering designated to stay with the local congregation. The training was organized into four categories.

Orientation of the Session to the issues and the reason for the church's involvement. We used the video, *Broken Vows: Religious Perspectives on Domestic Violence*. We also reviewed the theological statement, statistics and other information compiled by the church's Domestic Violence Awareness Task Force.

Training of the Church Programmatic Staff and Key Volunteers... An 18-hour training program for five members of the church staff and three volunteers focused on the impact of domestic violence on families and our society: ministering to victims and families, addressing the needs of children and confronting and ministering to the perpetrator.

Thematic Overview for all adult Church School Classes... All adult classes have had three class sessions of training using the *Broken Vows* video and an introduction to the church policy statement. In addition, parents of children and teens have had an additional three sessions reviewing the curriculum to be used with their children.

Curriculum Plan... All curricula used with the children and youth classes are available through the Faith Trust Institute.

1. Ages 5-8: In the fall of 2004 we will present a three to five session course drawing from material in the book, *Preventing Child Sexual Abuse: Ages 5-8*.
2. Ages 9-12: In the fall of 2004 we will present a three to five session course drawing from material in the book, *Preventing Child Sexual Abuse: Ages 9-12*.
3. Ages 13-18: Two resources will be used: *Sexual Abuse Prevention: A Course Study for Teenagers* and *Love: All That and More: Healthy Relationships for Teens and Young Adults*. Both teenage classes will have an eight to ten session study utilizing these materials.
4. Approximately thirty children from the Presbyterian Home for Children attend our congregation. The children of the Home have been placed there by the court system because they were either been neglected or abused. Because of the special needs of these children, the children between ages 5 and 12 will be taught separately by home staff and professional counselors. The teenagers at the Home will be included in the Sunday school class with the other teens. Materials for Victims of Family Violence on hand: *Wings Like a Dove: Healing for the Abused Christian Woman*. (Video and study guide.) *Hear Their Cries: Religious Responses to Child Abuse*. (Video and Study guide) *Bless Our Children: Preventing Sexual Abuse*. (Video and study guide) *Keeping the Faith: Guidance for Christian Women Facing Abuse*. (book)

The Rev. Kevin Frederick is the Associate Pastor of Black Mountain Presbyterian Church. Resources from the FaithTrust Institute can be obtained by calling 1-877-860-2255 or by visiting www.faithtrustinstitute.org. Some of these resources can be borrowed from the PHEWA office: 1-888-728-7228 ext. 8100; tgilmore@ctr.pcusa.org. "Anguished Hearts" training package that contains a CD of the Black Mountain Implementation Plan can be ordered by calling 1-800-524-2612 or www.pcusa.org/marketplace.