

WHY HOSPICE?

Even before Donna Authers and her husband Roger moved to Charlottesville from Connecticut a dozen years ago, they were familiar and involved with local hospice organizations. Donna's mother received hospice care for seven months before she passed away; Donna's grandmother received care when the hospice movement was in its infancy in 1980. Upon arriving in Charlottesville, Donna intended to continue her involvement and eventually received training as a volunteer with Hospice of the Piedmont.

A long-time caregiver, Donna had other roles she was passionate about:

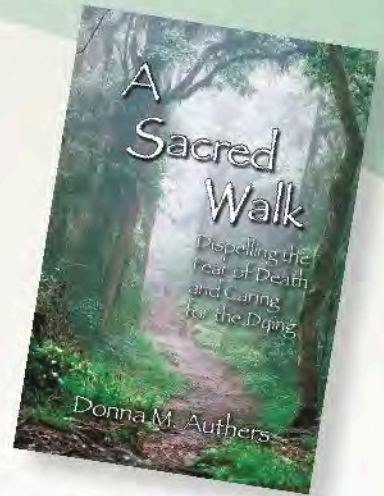


Donna Authers at home in Ivy. Donna has volunteered with HOP's faith community outreach since 2014.

she counseled and provided pastoral care for members of her church community—some terminally ill, some grieving a loss of a loved one—through Stephen Ministry. “I learned so much about caregiving and life through those experiences,” Donna said. “The living can learn so much from the dying... and I needed to share it.”

Based on her experience as a caregiver and providing pastoral care, Donna wrote

the book “A Sacred Walk: Dispelling the Fear of Death and Caring for the Dying” in 2008 (see sidebar). In 2014, Hospice of the Piedmont began an initiative to grow our relationships with faith communities; Donna Authers was the perfect fit to lead this initiative.



More information about “A Sacred Walk: Dispelling the Fear of Death and Caring for the Dying,” including links to purchase, is available at asacredwalk.com

Besides volunteering at the Hospice House and at patients' bedsides when needed, Donna now leads our Faith Community Outreach initiative, doing presentations and growing relationships with local churches and faith organizations. We're grateful to have Donna on our team.