



MedStar St. Mary's Hospital

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Then and Now

As part of our hospital's 100-year anniversary, we are taking a look at Then and Now by highlighting a hospital associate who has been a valuable part of our history in each issue of *The Pulse*.

Margaret Ann Pruitt (Maggie) found her niche very early on. Maggie has worked as a registered nurse first assistant in Perioperative Services for nearly 40 years. As of January 2012, she has taken on the new role of clinical coordinator in the department.

The only time Maggie has been away from the hospital was following the birth of her daughter, Jennifer, in 1977. She resigned but came back after a few months to help Dr. Fishman do cataract surgery once a month. It didn't take long before she was back working almost full time.

Maggie worked at the "old" hospital which had only two operating rooms when she first came to St. Mary's in 1974. "I sort of just fell into the role of first assistant back then," she said. She has seen a lot of change during her tenure. The biggest overall change has been the transition to outpatient services. She watched Ambulatory Surgery Services grow, recalling that "patients having surgery used to come in the night before."

One highlight for Maggie was working with Dr. Samadi in the OR. "When I was growing up, he was really the County's only surgeon and he was well revered. It was a dream come true when I actually got to work with him here at the hospital," she said. "I've always had the best job at the hospital."

As if to prove her point, her boat is named "OR 5." At the time she named it, the hospital had four operating rooms. She truly loves the OR and the challenge of learning new procedures. "The OR has been my second home for years," said Maggie, who grew up in Medley's Neck. "These are my people and I love taking care of my people and helping to build and keep the standards high in the OR," she said. "I'd put our OR up against any other hospital."