

Rev. Dr. John A. Scherzer (1901-1994)

Fellowship Hall
Dedicated In Honor Of
Rev. Dr. John A. Scherzer



Fellowship Square's founding in 1960 was led by Rev. Dr. John A. Scherzer (1901-1994), a pastor and member of the Lutheran Lay Fellowship of Metropolitan Washington who aspired to bring together his local community to better support vulnerable seniors and assure they had access to safe and affordable housing. In those early years, Fellowship Square assisted older adults and sought funding and land to build an affordable housing community in the region.

In 1970, Fellowship Square broke ground on the Lake Anne Fellowship House in Reston, Virginia, and welcomed its first residents in 1971. Dr. Scherzer and his wife, Louise, also became residents of Lake Anne Fellowship House and served as its first Resident Managers. The community soon expanded, with the Lake Anne II Fellowship House opening just five years later (1976).

After Louise's death in 1979, Dr. Scherzer continued to live in the House and devoted himself full time to planning and implementing the expansion of Fellowship Square. Fellowship Square expanded its communities and geographic reach with the opening of the Hunters Woods Fellowship House in Reston, VA (1979), Lake Ridge Fellowship House in Woodbridge, VA (1983), and Largo Landing Fellowship in Upper Marlboro, MD (1984). In April 1985, Dr. Scherzer married Dorothy Irene O'sben.

In April 1988, Dr. Scherzer retired as the first president of Fellowship Square after having served continuously for 28 years and was honored as "President Emeritus" by the Board of Directors. Following his retirement, Dr. Scherzer continued to serve the community in various capacities in volunteer positions, as a consultant offering chaplaincy services and pastoral counseling and as a board and committee member with several other local organizations. Dr. Scherzer passed away in 1994.

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HUNTERS WOODS
Fellowship House

LAKE RIDGE
Fellowship House

LARGO LANDING
Fellowship House