

Ministry works on halfway house

By LLOYD MACKALL
For The Sun News

A jail ministry by eight Georgetown County citizens may evolve into a frill-fledged halfway house for women who are returning from a stay in jail. Two years into the project as a nonprofit 50-C3 organization, they have raised \$23,000, according to Susan Tyler and Rick Russ of the Martha's House board of directors who spoke to the Rotary Club of Pawleys Island on Jan. 4 at Litchfield Country Club.

"Most efforts continue to go into jail ministry with Bible study for men and women," Russ said. "One female inmate, who will leave jail soon, is an alcoholic and will go home to her husband and two Sons who push beer and wine drinking in the household."

Russ was asked how he is able to reach the jail population. "They need faith," he said. "We're not saved by good works, but by God's grace.



PHOTOS BY LLOYD MACKALL *For The Sun News*

Martha's House speakers Susan Tyler and Rick Russ tell about their Georgetown County Detention Center ministry.

We are saved to do good works for others. Sooner or later, some-one will donate a house because of those who are having problems getting straightened out"

Tyler said the goal is to find a house somewhere with three or four bedrooms. "We can turn this into a home where women can stay for six months to a year," she said. "It should be outside Georgetown, such as on Route 7th where Teen Challenge is going to be," Tyler said. "We're open to anything the Lord can provide us. There are four women in jail right

now who'll be leaving and need a place to go."

She explained that returning women many times have their own children to deal with, and they have siblings or even parents who have drug or alcoholic addictions. "You can't stay clean in such an environment," she said. "It takes a year to get clean."

To supply the house, Tyler said they need volunteers. "We'll need people to get the store ready. We have huge yard sales, and these can work you to death."