

January opening planned

Birthing center to open at Providence

Orientation classes for Providence Hospital's new Family Birthing Center are now being held for prospective parents interested in making their childbirth experiences more natural than is traditional.

The classes are conducted at the hospital by Jan Barger, R.N., coordinator for the birthing center.

She explains how to enroll in the program, the requirements, risks, advantages and disadvantages of such a delivery, and the reasons for the new center.

Scheduled to open in January, the Family Birthing Center is a new concept in childbirth which offers a safe alternative to home deliveries.

"It will provide as home-like a birthing experience as possible in the safe confines of a medical facility," according to Dr. Henry Maicki, educational director for the hospital's department of obstetrics and gynecology. He is also director of the project. To be housed in a renovated area of the Fisher Center adjoining the hospital,

the new facility will contain apartment-like units with family room and birthing room where the mother and family remain throughout the entire labor and delivery process.

Rooms will be furnished with a queen size bed, comfortable chairs, sofa, draperies, a kitchen unit, television, stereo, plants and paintings for a homelike atmosphere.

"THE NEED for the Family Birthing Center grows out of the demand for health care which takes into account individual patient needs, increased patient rights and joint decision-making processes between the patient and the health care providers," Dr. Maicki said.

"There are an increasing number of families who view childbirth as a very unique and personal event which should intimately involve family members and close friends."

In the past, he said, many families had to choose between an intimate birthing experience in their home, or

hospitalization involving separation from family and friends, and sometimes even the newborn child. The center is a safe alternative provided for "low risk" parents.

There are no other birthing centers in Michigan and very few across the country.

The Providence center is a demonstration project of the Metropolitan Detroit Northwest Hospital Corporation in an attempt to determine the utilization and effectiveness in reducing hazardous home births as well as cost containment aspects of such a service.

Because this is a new concept, it is essential that the woman and her child remain at low risk. Following the initial orientation, each family admitted to the program is screened. A risk index system has been developed to help determine the safety of delivery.

THE EXPECTANT mother must be in excellent medical health, have a

pregnancy proceeding within the normal range in terms of weight gain and other criteria, have no previous delivery problems and have had good psychological preparation.

For such preparation, Providence requires the woman to enroll in a 20-hour prenatal program.

The education series includes the orientation class, which must be taken by the 20th week of pregnancy; a prenatal series of three classes covering all aspects of pregnancy, nutrition, postpartum and newborn care, and a series of six Lamaze classes.

At the time of delivery, the mother is admitted to the center with members of her family who can be with her through the entire labor and delivery process and remain together, as a family unit, until the time of discharge.

The mother is attended by her own physician and the baby is examined by a pediatrician or family physician in the birthing unit.

Discharge of the new family occurs 12-24 hours after delivery with follow-up home visits from nursing personnel within the first 72 hours. The total charge of using the birthing center is estimated to be half that of traditional hospital maternity care.

For more information on the program and the classes, call the center at 424-3394 or 424-3319.

People Helper seminar designed for laymen

A People Helper seminar designed for lay officers, church leaders, pastors and all persons who minister to people facing various crises in their lives, is sponsored by the staff of Personality Dynamics, Inc., in Clarenceville United Methodist Church.

The sessions begin at 7 p.m. Thursday and Friday, Nov. 16-17, and continue all day Saturday, Nov. 18 in the church located at 20300 Middlebelt, Livonia.

The seminar will be led by Ed Edmund and Dr. Forrest S. Stevenson, both of Personality Dynamics, headquartered in Suite 115, Carlyle Towers, 23000 Providence Drive, Southfield.

Registrations will be accepted at the door for \$17.50 per couple, or \$12.50 per person.

Thursday evening's session is "Mental Health and the Christian," and Friday's is "Depression: The Cause and the Cure."

Registrants may choose one of four sessions on both Saturday morning and Saturday afternoon.

Lunch for \$3 is optional.

College grants degrees to 8

Eight Southfield students were among 1,800 persons included in the official list of those awarded bachelor's, master's or specialist's degrees from Western Michigan University at its recent commencement.

Howard Lawrence Shaw received a master's of arts degree. Others receiving degrees include: Steven Allen Band, a BBA; Mark A. Bristol, BS; Therese Ann Dahmer, BFA; Marc Arthur Morin, BBA; Joseph R. Oldford, BS; Mary Alice Fardell, BS; and Dennis Jay Lerk, BBA.



Palmer-McQuiston

Mr. and Mrs. John H. Palmer of Farmington Hills announce the engagement of their daughter Cynthia Lynn to Brad McQuiston, son of Mr. and Mrs. Dean McQuiston of Novi.

The bride to be is a graduate of Farmington High School, employed with Texas Instruments, Inc., in Southfield. Her fiancé is a graduate of Novi High School, employed with DECO Grand in Troy.

No wedding date has been set.

Reservations being accepted.

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