Take time to hear what the silence is telling you



It has been more than 30 years since Simon and Garfunkel came out with "The Sounds of Silence." It b e g i n s,
"Hello darkness, my old
friend. I've
come to talk

come to talk with you again ..." Simon and Garfunkel were telling us that all true communication arises out of silence. Silence is hardly over mere silence; rather, it is expressive of many moods. There is the deafening silence that occurs between married partners when conflict between them charges the air with tension. the air with tension.

There is the stillness of a warm summer's night, when

warm summer's night, when every moment seems to face into eternity and the silence seems to go on forever.

There is the cosmic silence, out beyond our earth's atmosphere, that echoes into the next galaxy. There is the silence of two lovers who gaze into each other's eyes, being content to know one another without the need for words that would only get in the way. There is the golden silence of hateful words never speken, and there is the cowardly silence of those who stand still in the face of injustice.

stand still in the lace of injustice.

Silence has many moods, and it is true that all real communication requires silence.

communication requires silence.
When disputes arise between labor and management, between husband and wife, between parent and child, between haves and

have-nots, it takes silence for people to listen and wisely reflect before responding. Intelligible speech, itself, is not possible without the punctuation of silence.

When there is no silence to separate the words into sontonces, spaceh breaks down as, all the syllables run together. Silence is required for the making of music, for the rhythms of any piece of music are defined by the silence that breaks the sound.

We live in a society in which silence is little appreciated or respected. It is a society that is a swirl of noises and distractions. We hereak the silence of sleep with a noisy alarm, as if getting up is an alarming thing.

We fill the air with the din of mechanical noises that all come together in an indistinguishable groan.

We fill the room with voices shouting, while no one is listening. It seems that we will do almost anything to kill the silence.

Perhaps this is bocuse we are afraid of any true communication.

After all, when we really communicate in we are

After all, when we really communicate; we are exposed for who we really

exposed for who we really are.

There is nowhere to hide in the midst of silence, and the truth will come out. This is why it is written, 'Bo still and know that I am God ...'
God speaks to use out of the silence, but we must have the courage to enter into silence so that God's truth may speak to our need.

The Rev. Allan Eickelmann is the senior minister at the Congregational Church of Birmingham.

BELIEFS Values

Hope expands into spiritual support

BY HARB PERT TEMPLETON SPECIAL WRITER

The Hope Network of South-The Hope Network of South-east Michigan has been locating homes in Macomb and Oakland counties for those who suffer with mental illness, but now they're going boyond shelter to offer their clients spiritual sup-

port.
The Rev. Michael Kniespeck recently joined Hope Network, S.E., as its director of pastoral services and volunteer coordina-

recently joined nope Network, S.E., as its director of pastoral services and volunteer coordinator.

"We are a Christian-based organization and we hired Rev. Mike to expand on that by providing spiritual guidance to our consumers," Heather Tiffany, community development coordinator said.

"He will be responsible for the administration of our volunteer program as well as providing spiritual guidance to consumers in our program. Hell serve as a resource and advocate for these people."

The "people" Tiffany refers to are these who suffer from mental illness and or other similar disabilities and are assisted by the Hope Network, S.E. via its Pontice based offices. A non-profit organization, Hope Network, S.E. is a branch of the 33-year-old state wide organization whose headquarters are in Grand Rapids. The Pontiac offices were opened in 1994 to serve those in need in Oakland and Maccomb counties. The Hope Network rurantly operates 14 residential programs throughout southeastern Michigan. Thoir mission is to enhance the dignity and independence of persons who have a disability by creating and maintaining dynamic, integrated services.

"We are a housing developer and provider for people with

taining dynamic, integrated services.

"We are a housing developer and provider for people with chronic mental illness and related dissibilities." Tiffany said.

The residences include typical group home settings as well as independent living situations in apartments and homes. Kniespeck, whose background

//www.genesysgroup.com

Mow we are extending our scope to the community via Rev.
Mike because he can help out some of those people in need that have not been referred

by the counties and he'll be looking for volunteers too." Heather Tiffany

Hope development coordinator.

is in special ministries, has pre

is in special ministries, has previous experience that includes professional and ministry positions for Grace Hospital, Boyaville of Michigan, and the Allen Park VA Hospital. He will focus his efforts on developing a Pastoral Caro program and Ministry program for individuals with chronic mental illness and disabilities throughout the parish communities in Oakland, Macomb and Wayne counties.

"I envision Pastoral Services

counties.
"I envision Pastoral Services becoming an active and exciting presence for the individuals served by Hope Network, S.E. as well as staff, families and their communities," Kniespeck said.

said.

As a Christian based organization, this is an essential part of providing services for emotional, physical and spiritual well-being of the people we serve by helping integrate them into their communities, Virginia Skrzyniarz, executive director of Hope Network, S.E., said.

director of Hope Network, S.E., said.

"The development of this program completes our mission to enhance their quality of life."
In addition to Skrynjuarz and Kniespeck, the Hope Network, S.E., employs 10 support services people in their Pontiac offices and has more than 100 workers in residences across the community who service some 80 clients.

Community Mental Health



The Rev. Michael Kniespeck

The Rov. Michael Kniespeck
Agencies in both counties serve
as referral barses for the Hope
Network, S.E., sending those in
need to the organization for
assistance in housing.
"Now we are extending our
scope to the community via Rev.
Mike because the can help out
some of those people in need
that have not been referred by
the counties and hell be looking
for volunteers too," Tiffany said.
One established Hope Network program that Kniespeck
plans to expand on right away
is "Project New Start." Individuals
throughout the county who
are on probation can be of service to the community at the
Hope Network.
"They may do filing of paperwork in the office here or maybe
some painting but they don't
have any direct contact with the
clientis," Kniespeck said.
"But I hope some of them will
stay on with us as volunteers

once their mandated hours are

once their mandated hours are completed.

"Our ministry volunteer program would be the ones who work with our population in conducting things like a bible study program," Kniespeck added.

Boyond those projects Kniespeck is anxious to suppose that of community activities through the Pastoral Services Department at Hope Network. The organization recently announced its plan to join an ationwide offort to end the stigma association with mental illness by kicking off a year long awareness eampaign during National Mental Illness Awareness week, Oct. 4-10. ness week, Oct. 4-10.

To contact the Hope network, S.E. for additional information or to volunteer in the pastora ministry call (248) 334-3454.

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