

Woman priest predicts battle for Episcopalian ordination

By NANCY MITCHELL

"It is wonderful to be in freedom," the Rev. Katrina Swanson said upon her arrival in Farmington Hills.

"She is one of 11 women ordained July, 1974. In the Episcopal priesthood the ordinations focused attention on the dispute over admitting women to the clergy."

"Four of the ordained women recently attended the annual meeting of the National Episcopal Women's Caucus at Mercy Center, Farmington Hills."

"I'm afraid I'm not very hopeful that the ordinations will be regularized in September," she said.

"I've heard rumors that too many roadblocks are being placed in the way. The issue will probably have to be decided in the individual parishes and dioceses by people who continue to invite women priests, and continue and continue, until it is foolish of the General Convention and House of Bishops to pretend we don't exist or aren't accepted."

Mrs. Swanson and her husband, the Rev. George Swanson, came here with their two sons at the invitation of the Rev. John Hooper, rector of Trinity Episcopal Church, Farmington Hills.

MRS. SWANSON predicts a battle for Episcopalian ordination as priests within the church.

considered "valid but irregular" by the Episcopal Church.

The dispute will be resolved at the General Convention in September.

"DON'T JUST TALK about ordination of women," Mrs. Swanson told Trinity Church parishioners. "Invite not only black and white priests, but male and female to work in your parishes. Give them jobs so they can be useful and perform their ministry."

"Write letters to each of your bishops, and especially to your delegates to the General Convention, stating your support. Remember, they are the ones who will vote."

"No one says that the ordination of women will be a panacea for all the world's ills or the answer to all the Church's problems," her husband, the Rev. George Swanson, said.

"But we can hope that the compassionate nature of women will lift and permeate the whole church. A shared ministry of male and female together will be more meaningful for all people."

The Swansons are the only Episcopal husband and wife who are ordained

priests. They celebrated Holy Communion for the first time while in Farmington Hills. Mr. Hooper (who celebrated at the service, Mrs. Swanson also celebrated Holy Communion alone).

Mr. Hooper received one complaint. Someone thought that a hymn contained racist language.

"Their whole visit has been a positive experience for me," said Mr. Hooper, who has been rector of Trinity Church for six years. "I was very natural."

"This is the beginning of a new way of life for the church, not just here, but doors are opening to the future."

Mrs. Swanson was ordained by her father, the Rt. Rev. Edward Randolph Welles, retiring Bishop of West Missouri, and presented by her husband.

Negative response from his Kansas City parish forced Mr. Swanson to dismiss his wife from his clerical function. "All she can do is sit in the pew," he said. "It's God-sawful for her."

Once a month, she makes a nine-hour, 300-mile trip by bus to St. Louis to work as an assistant priest at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church. She can afford the \$17 bus fare only once a month, and St. Stephen's offers her a stipend of one dollar a year.

Some bishops are opposed to women priests and prohibit them from performing any priestly function within their diocese.

MRS. SWANSON is the only one of the 15 female priests who was punished by her bishop. She was suspended for three months and was forbidden to wear clerical vestments or perform clerical duties. She accepted the suspension in order to avoid a trial and possible expulsion from the priesthood.

She has second thoughts about that decision now, because some women priests believe that a church trial may be necessary to force a decision.

The Bishop of West Missouri also relieved Mr. Swanson of all his diocesan positions and prohibited Mrs. Swanson from attending any service, function or social event on Episcopal Church property in the diocese. She is prohibited from performing any canonical work.

"Talk to as many people as you can about this, explaining your support. Do not underestimate the power of inundating them with your opinion. Show the leaders you need, that you are also sending copies to Archbishop So-and-so to the Observer & Eccentric, the Detroit Free Press, and so on."

The traditional roles of women in religion have been changing and expanding. In the past decade, Roman Catholic women have changed their church roles and can act as lectors during Mass. Nuns have assumed modern dress to work and live in the world.

Many Protestant churches have ordained women ministers, though not all are active in clerical positions. The Episcopal Church permits female acolytes, lay readers and deacons.

More than 250 women are attending seminaries. They will be ordained deacons upon completion of their studies, along with their male counterparts. The men can be ordained Episcopal priests within six months to a year of graduation, but the church doesn't recognize female priests.

The three bishops who have ordained women have been censured by their church for their parts in the ceremonies.



Celebrating communion together this past weekend in Trinity Episcopal Church, Farmington Hills, were Rev. George Swanson and his wife, Rev. Katrina Swanson. Mrs. Swanson is one of the Episcopal women fighting for recognition as priests within the church. (Photo by Evert)

Brighter nights ahead for Shiawassee diamond

The action will be brightened at the Farmington's Shiawassee Park baseball diamond this season.

The city council has voted to put out bids for replacement of the existing 1,000-watt lights and installing 1,500-watt lights.

City Manager Bob Deadman estimates that removal of 24 bulbs from the six poles and the installation of 32 replacements plus installation of a new cross-arm on four poles would cost approximately \$3,000.

Also slated for upgrading is the lighting at the tennis courts in the park. Deadman estimates it will cost \$500 to convert the 500-watt lights to 1,500 watts.

Also being considered is moving the center field lights farther out so they will illuminate the entire field.

Consideration of improving the lighting came after Farmington acquired 75 dead 1,500-watt light fixtures from the City of Livonia. Livonia recently modernized its baseball lighting from incandescent to mercury vapor.

City officials also decided to change the lighting after a baseball marathon was conducted at the field. Extensive damage to lighting was discovered after the event.

Upon completion of the marathon an audit that out of 24 luminaires located at the lighted field only eight still functioned. Deadman told the council at this week's council session.

A review of the lighting system revealed that many of our lighting fixtures were damaged beyond repair. We have no way of knowing at this time who damaged the fixtures as there were many youth groups coming and going during this marathon event who had no connection with the ball game.

Deadman said the cost of repairing the existing system would be approximately \$1,600 to \$1,800. That cost would include the replacement of three fixtures badly damaged and the repair of the remaining fixtures.

Lighting proposed for the tennis court wouldn't be of the standard normally found for night lighting but it should be sufficient to offer recreational use of the courts during the evening hours. Deadman said.

He estimates the work will be completed by spring with payment being made after July 1.

The FEA is on the move

The Farmington Education Association is moving to offices in the Civic Center office building, 11 mile and Orchard Lake Road.

The association's new address is 2580 Orchard Lake Road, Suite L-2, Farmington Hills, 48034.

Their telephone number, 476-4191, remains the same.



Farmington photographer Joe Clark tells Arts Council president Marlowe Belanger about one of the pictures in an exhibit of work at the Twelve Mile library. (Staff photo by Harry Mauthe)

Farmington scenes grace Joe Clark's library show

The Farmington Area Arts Council chose photographer Joe Clark as the first artist in residence and honored him with a monetary gift, a show of his work and a special award.

Clark, known across the United States as HISS, standing for Hill Billy Soap Shooter, returned the compliment this week. He presented some fine examples of his work, framed and ready for exhibiting to the council for a permanent exhibit.

Marlowe Belanger, arts council president, said of Clark's gift: "It is really wonderful because in this way Joe Clark is returning much of the gift we gave to him."

The framed works which Clark gave the council, plus a number of other examples of his work which he is loaning and samples of many of his books, are on display in the main lobby of the Farmington Library on Twelve Mile.

Mrs. Belanger says it will then be displayed at the Liberty Street branch library and at the two city halls.

Among the framed photographs which Clark gave to the council are several local scenes. The man surrounded by sheep which the dog is rounding up is John Drury who used to live on Thirteen Mile. John would call to that dog: "Bring the sheep here, bring them to me or take them to the barn," and that old dog would do it," Clark said.

He points to a photo of an axe and an axvil and another one of a fence post, saying they were both taken in a nearby apple orchard.

The old farm bell he says belonged to his neighbor.

The neighbors on both sides of us had a bell. One was for show, the other family used it to call their kids. Both of them are gone now."

He looks at the photograph of mallard ducks on a small pond with clumps of snow clinging to the weeds. "Those ducks were on Drake Road and that was the last snow of spring."

Several which he has given the council have international significance. There is a large portrait of Robert Frost and another of clown Emmett Kelly.

In the center of the exhibit case is a picture of two stern, plain-looking men, one is holding a Bible.

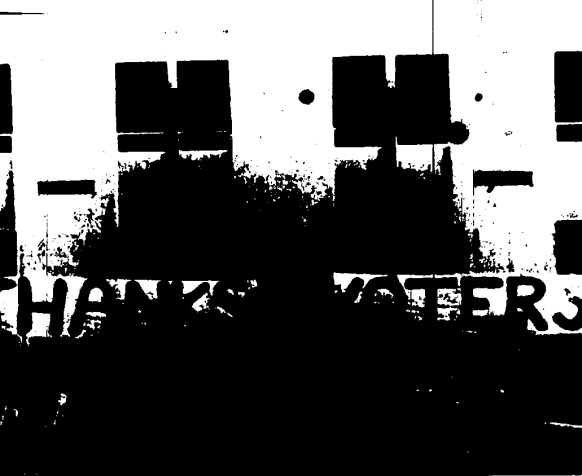
When questioned about these two, Clark smiles slowly. "You're not a Baptist or you'd know. They're two Baptist preachers."

Mrs. Belanger, pleased with the reception to this first artist-in-residence award from the communities at large and the number of persons nominated, says she already has applied to the Michigan Council for the Arts for another grant so the event can be held again next year.

YOU SAID GO WEST WE DID WE WENT HUNTING FOR BARES, AND GOT THEM FROM ELON. Enter the sun wearing a little perfume, a little smile and bare bikini. California girls will have nothing on you as you emerge with a tan—and maybe some admirers. Designed by Colly Award Winner, Monika Tiley, the bikini is in a print of natural rust and black in cotton 8-14. \$22. With a matching triangle scarf. In The Activist at all of our Hudson's stores. See our entire Elon collection at Hudson's Northland and Oakland stores only.

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A note of gratitude was expressed by the students at North Farmington High School to their parents and other voters who approved the four-mill renewal at this week's election.