

Suburban Life

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Samaritan Institute

12 churches join to launch local center for pastoral counseling

By Lorraine McClish
staff writer

Local ministers who may not have the time to provide long-term counseling to parishioners may soon be able to refer them to an independent pastoral counseling center.

February 1986 is the target date for opening Samaritan Counseling Center of Southeast Oakland County. It will be based in Knox House on Farmington Road, adjacent to First Presbyterian Church of Farmington.

The pastoral counseling center is independently incorporated and affiliated with Samaritan Institute of Denver, Colo., which acts as parent to 52 centers across the country.

The local board of directors is made up of 22 persons representing 12 churches in Farmington Hills, West Bloomfield and Livonia.

Kenneth Glide, who has been active in the yearlong planning sessions to get the center under way, described the services to be offered as "an extension of the ministry to people who face stress."

LARRY AUSTIN, assistant minister at First Presbyterian, said the proposal was readily accepted by so many of the local clergy because "the administrative business of running a church simply does not allow the time to give the sometimes lengthy counseling that might be needed by those who come to their minister seeking help."

Jim Laurie, a Samaritan Institute representative acting as resource per-

son, said the Samaritan centers have grown since their beginnings in Elkhart, Ind., in 1972 because "people in stress feel comfortable asking for help in a pastoral setting. They trust their church. Our statistics show that 57 percent of the population turn to their priest or their minister first when they are in trouble."

According to Samaritan Institute guidelines, \$50,000 must be raised to open the center's doors here. A grant from the (William) Angell Foundation together with contributions from some of the affiliated churches and individuals has launched the fund drive.

"Now we're looking for contributors: foundations, groups, companies, individuals," Glide said. "Our budget for the second year will be \$30,000. If we continue to follow the pattern other Samaritan centers have followed and we have done that so far. By the beginning of our third year we should be self-supporting."

THE initial planning is done, the need for such a center here is established and a board of directors each of whom holds multiple degrees has been named.

A nationwide search has been started to hire the center's executive director.

Fees for clients, also according to Samaritan guidelines, "will be less than any government agency," Glide said, "and the budget will also accommodate persons who can't afford to pay that."

One of the first jobs for local Samaritan's initial task force was to establish a need for such a center here. The affil-

iated churches all participated.

"The best example I can cite on the need came from the Dearborn Pastoral Counseling Center, a conglomerate of four churches in Dearborn. This is not connected with Samaritan, but it is worked on the same principle. It serviced 584 clients in one year and those clients came from as far away as Ann Arbor and Toledo," Glide said.

LAURIE EMPHASIZED that Samaritan centers are not crisis centers. They are non-denominational and clients are counseled within their own belief system and "nobody is going to be converted from one religion to another."

He gave the example of one client who believed in free will and another who believed in predestination.

"We're not out to change anybody's mind," he said. "We use their belief to help them think through and solve their problem themselves, which is the basic tenet of counseling."

Samaritan centers use the holistic approach of healing the mind, body and spirit, which in Laurie's words "is getting rid of the stress that caused the ulcers to get rid of the ulcers."

Typical clients, Laurie said, "are those suffering from marital or domestic problems, depression, much of it caused by unemployment or finances in general, stress of getting from one day to the next, and physical problems caused by that stress."

Samaritan centers accept all clients. They are clearly identified as a ministry, but almost one-third who come for counseling indicate no relig-



The Rev. James Laurie

ious preference or affiliation.

The board of directors is a mix representing the local medical, business and religious community. The center utilizes a team approach bringing together the special talents of the clergy, psychotherapist and physician.

THE LOCAL churches brought together to bring about Samaritan Counseling Center of Southeast Oakland County are Church of Our Savior, Covenant Baptist, Faith Covenant, First Presbyterian of Farmington, Nardin Park United Methodist, North Farm-



Kenneth Glide

ington Baptist, Orchard United Methodist, Newburg United Methodist, St. Colman, Trinity Episcopal and West Bloomfield Methodist.

Austin said Knox House was chosen for the center "because it is the most centrally located, because our second floor can be easily renovated to accommodate it, and because we are not charging any rent."

Glide, a resident of Farmington Hills, was just recently voted president of the center, which is registered as a non-profit organization which will allow tax deductions for contributors.



The Rev. Larry Austin

His vice president is Dr. Joseph L. Baker of West Bloomfield. Secretary is Gerard E. Delaney of Farmington Hills, and treasurer is Robert H. Hird of West Bloomfield.

The idea for a Samaritan center here was first proposed to local clergy by the Rev. Robert Brown, who has since left his post as pastor of Orchard United Methodist Church.

Persons who wish to make a donation to the new center, or those who have questions are invited to call Austin, at First Presbyterian Church of Farmington, 474-6170.

Center's fall fashion show set Sept. 26 this fall

By Lorraine McClish
staff writer

T. Edwards, Casual Corners and Winkelman's join to bring a show of updated fashions for the annual luncheon and fashion show to benefit Farmington Community Center, at 11 a.m. Thursday, Sept. 26 in Sheraton Oaks, Novi.

Fashion coordinators from all three stores are working with astrologer Karen Johns who will narrate the show that circles around the signs of the Zodiac.

Johns left her public relations job about four years ago to pursue her interest in astrology, combining it with her knowledge of psychology and her love for fashion.

"You don't have to be just one person fitting into one mold," Johns said. "All 12 signs in the Zodiac are some part of your personality. I think of the Zodiac as a house with 12 rooms in it. Some of them you live in more than others. Some you don't visit at all. This is the age of choices. This is the time to break out of that mold, break out of old habits."

"I don't mean kookie, just something new."

What's new that will be shown in the benefit show is the wondrous soft-as-butter fleece fashioned into dressings for all occasions, felt hats that can be shaped as many as six ways, skinny pants, oversize shirts, paisley prints and silver jewelry.

Copper jewelry is coming up as a fast second, but silver holds a strong lead in the all-important accessories for the season.

AS JOHNS studied the charts of the models, she worked with accessories, such as a heavy silver collar and cuff bracelets on models with normally conservative sun signs, to prove her put-it-on-try-it-on point.

"They are not going to walk comfortably if they don't feel comfortable, and some of them here today have surprised themselves. The only one stopping you from trying a new look is you," she said.

Johns will carry this theme in the show, the same theme she is writing about in her book with the working title "Rags in the Mirror," scheduled for publication next June.

"I call myself a human potential consultant," she said, "because there is so much potential in everyone's chart they just don't reach for, not only in fashion, but in every way of life. But fashion is a good beginning. With a little experimenting you can find out a little more about yourself instead of letting fashion dictate to you. You don't have to be mass produced. And you will enjoy the change."



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

The look for Pieces this fall is modeled by Carolyn Kress, one of a dozen members of Farmington Community Center's Volunteer Guild who will be showing clothes for the season for women of all ages for all occasions. Her fringed leather pants and three-quarter length jacket is made in bright lavender, one of the jewel tones popular for the season, from T. Edwards. The \$35 Bibbo hand-knit sweater carries a touch of mauve woven into the fringe trim.



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Karen Johns (above at left) and Janice Haydel pick and choose from an array of jewelry in T. Edwards for the accessories necessary for fashionable fall dressing. Johns will narrate the show, and Haydel is co-chairman of Farmington Community Center's annual event. At right: Nan Heid chooses long pearls and a paisley scarf to add to the Sterling Cooper suit from Casual Corners. The career woman's emerald green, small-checked jacket with solid colored skirt is perked up with a bright green blouse.

