

Southern Style RELIGION

THE CLARION-LEDGER ■ JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2003

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Brian Albert Brown, The Clarion-Ledger

Mental health center aided by resale shop

By Charlotte Graham

It started with a conversation among people interested in finding ways the church and community agencies could pool their resources to better serve children and families in Florence and surrounding areas.

The result was a collaborative, faith-based community initiative called the Marvin Community Model. The lead partners in this program are Marvin United Methodist Church in Florence and the Region B Mental Health Center, which has its central office in Brandon and serves Rankin, Madison, Copiah and Simpson counties.

The Mississippi Department of Mental Health's Division of Children and Youth Services is a contributing partner. The Department has allowed staff member Beth Miller to serve as project director. Miller, a member of Marvin, holds a master's degree from Mississippi College and is a licensed professional counselor and marriage and family therapist.

Sandra McClelland, the community liaison of the Marvin Community Model, helps out at the Model's resale store, Samaritan's Heart. The store offers everything from clothes to jewelry to toys.

Miller said she is proud of the accomplishments of the program, which opened its doors in June. He adds that the church decided to call this a model program because it hopes others will want to duplicate it in their communities.

"We are willing to assist people in any way we can in making a project like this work in their area," Puterman says. "All they have to do is call and let us know."

For details on the Marvin Community Model or to volunteer, phone 845-9004, 845-7347 or 845-7324.



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agency that would provide for the traditional needs of individuals in that community, along with the traditional mental health services provided by the mental health center on a daily basis.

Services available through the Marvin Community Model include counseling, therapeutic horseback riding, assistance in accessing the services of Region B Mental Health Center and a clothing resale shop known as Samaritan's Heart.

Miller says the name of the resale shop comes from the biblical story of the Good Samaritan who helped the man who had been beaten and left on the side of the road. Heart, she says, is an acronym for "Helping Everyone

Access Resources Together."

"The heart of the Good Samaritan was that of reaching out to assist," explains Miller. "Such are the effort and the spirit of the clothes resale shop."

Samaritan's Heart will soon offer a food pantry as well. McClelland says with the help of the Mississippi Food Network, Samaritan's Heart will give out food supplies. Also, the Marvin Community Model will soon offer a home repair ministry called Jacob's Ladder.

"It's been exciting to see kids from Region B and the Department of Mental Health work with the congregation as an effective delivery system for services to the community," says the Rev. Don Puterman, pastor

of Marvin United Methodist Church. "I think there is a language difference between the two entities, but Marvin Church recognizes there are other ministries out there, and we are prepared to utilize well the services of this and other governmental agencies."

"While we may use different languages, our programs and services are the same," United Methodist Bishop Kenneth Carter says the Marvin Community Model is a great example of the church's role in building coalitions and cooper-

atives ministries with agencies and institutions for the betterment of the community.

"It is a recognition that God's work isn't limited to the institutional church and that the church has the responsibility of joining what God is doing in the world through other agencies and institutions in meeting needs and accomplishing God's vision for the world," says Carter.

"It is important that we be good stewards of all resources, whether it be the church or public agencies.

"We can do together what we cannot do separately."

McClelland adds that the project couldn't provide any of the services it does without the help of the many volunteers. Members of Marvin and Monterey United Methodist churches, as well as others in the community, have donated time, clothes, shoes, toys and other items to the project.

"Friends and neighbors in the community are dropping up on the plate to provide for the less fortunate," says Van. "This church and the agencies working with it are being aggressive and creative in finding a way to provide for all the needs of individuals in communities in which they live."

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Gray to follow Marble as bishop

It seems like just yesterday we were welcoming him as the new bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Mississippi. But when the diocese holds its 176th annual council in Biloxi next week, we'll see Bishop Alfred C. Marble Jr. pass his crosier to Bishop of Damon M. Gray III.

At 10 a.m. Feb. 9, Marble will pass the leadership of the church on to Gray during a service at the Coast Coliseum.

Although he won't officially leave his post until the end of the month, it will be a farewell of sorts for Marble, who served as Mississippi's bishop for 10 years. He'll retire, but doesn't expect him to sit still. Marble cares too much about the people of Mississippi to do that. You'll probably find him helping someone or aiding some social justice cause. That's the type of person he is.

Although he's a native of Atlanta, N.Y., Marble calls Mississippi home. His parents moved to Vicksburg when he was 3. Also, he first began considering the priesthood during his early years in the state.

He was ordained as a deacon at St. Albans-Bovina in 1967. He has served in a number of capacities throughout the state, including posts in Oxford, Southaven, Olive Branch and Jackson.

Prior to being elected bishop coadjutor of Mississippi, Marble served as assistant to the bishop of the Diocese of East Carolina for seven years.

Who can forget the festive parade down the streets of Jackson as Episcopalians across the state and country gathered in downtown Jackson to install him as the state's eighth Episcopal bishop? The flags and banners were beautiful and accented the special day for this man we have come to know as Bishop "Chip" Marble.

Like those you develop friendships and good working relationships with across the years, I hate to see Marble leave. But there is consolation in knowing another great leader will succeed him.

His successor is no stranger to those in Mississippi. Gray will become the third generation in his family to lead the Episcopal Church in Mississippi. A native of Canton, his father and grandfather were both former Mississippi bishops.

Gray was elected bishop coadjutor of the Diocese of Mississippi in February 2000 and was consecrated in June of that year. He graduated with a bachelor's degree from the University of Mississippi in 1971, received a master's of divinity degree from Virginia Theological Seminary in 1975, and is working to complete his doctorate degree in ministry from the University of the South. In the spring of 2001, during separate ceremonies, Gray received honorary doctorate of divinity degrees from both the University of the South and Virginia Theological Seminary.

Gray has done a variety of work on the diocesan, provincial and national levels. He has served as two-time deputy to the triennial General Convention for the Episcopal Church, USA, and serves on the National Task Force for the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation. Also, he was a four-time grand deputy and has served on the Presiding IV Court of Review.

Gray chaired the diocese's delegation to General Convention in 1997. Most recently, Gray chaired the diocesan Commission on Ministry, serving on its screening committee and as organizing chaplain, and has served for many years as director of summer camping sessions at Camp Bechtel, Green.

Gray also has been active in Habitat for Humanity and other community-oriented programs.

Contact religion writer Charlotte Graham at 961-7291 or cgraham@clarionledger.com.

BOOKS & MUSIC

Books
■ **Earthen Vessels: The Practice of Personal Prayer According to the Patristic Tradition**, by Gabriel Brons (Ignatius Press, 222 pages, \$14.95). Prayer involves not only the mind but also the body. That part of the Western Christian tradition has been forgotten, the author writes. The book is a guide to developing a style of prayer based on ancient practices taught by the Desert Fathers.

Music
■ **Kalidondage**, by Rachel Lampa (Wood Records). Kalidondage is an appropriate title for this project, which opens up to a variety of colors and sounds, experimenting at times with a funkier sound but never underestimating the power of Lampa's remarkable voice.

PULPITS & PEWS

SPECIAL EVENTS
■ **Methodist United Methodist Church**, 1401 U.S. 18 corner of Dwyer Road, Jackson. Remembering the Journey of African Americans: perspectives by attorneys Robert and Debra Miller. noon Sunday, Feb. 2, 961-7278 or 961-6911 ext. 118.
■ **St. Philip Lutheran Church**, 1235 South Montgomery St., Jackson. celebrates its 83rd church anniversary. 4 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 2, 961-3924.
■ **Christen United Church**, 5384 Merivale Road, Jackson. Seventh Year Home of White & Black Children Following: guest speaker: Evangelist Mark Miller. 7 p.m. Wednesday through Friday, Feb. 27-29, 961-3996.
■ **Emmanuel Missionary Baptist Church**, 1120 Conover Road, Jackson. presents the pastors, deacons, members and deaconesses relationship seminar: "The Rev. Donny Hollos, 8 p.m. Thursday through Saturday, Feb. 6-8, 961-3996.
■ **Emmanuel Missionary Baptist Church**, 3630 South Drive, Jackson. Youth Rally: Fight against HIV/AIDS. speaker: J. Carlette. 6:30-8:30 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 2, 961-3996.
■ **New Horizon Church**, 2650 Boulevard Drive. Jackson. presents the Homecoming Fellowship 2003. Dwellings Together in Unity. speaker: Yvonne Copeland. 7 p.m. Friday, Feb. 7, 961-3996.
■ **White Rock Missionary Baptist Church**, 6840 Collier Hill Drive, Jackson. Pre-congregation Musical. speaker: The Rev. Stan Stapperton. 8 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 2, 961-3996.
■ **New Journey Baptist Church**, 1402 Pleasant Hill. Pastor: Duane. Ministry: Installation Services. guest minister: The Rev. Christopher Anselm. 11:30 a.m. Sunday, Feb. 2, 961-3996.

961-9902.
■ **Calvary Baptist Church**, 438 Elm St. Vicksburg. presents ABE: JBU MNU Collaboration Black History Program. speaker: JBU President. Round Tables. at 8:00 p.m. and 10 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 2, 961-3428.
■ **First Presbyterian Church of Madison**, 1717 Old Center Road corner of Madison Ave. and Old Center Road. speaker: Bill of Consensus meeting. speaker: Walt Skyraker. 8:00 p.m. 7:45 p.m. Feb. 2, 961-3996.
■ **Townes Missionary Baptist Church**, 134 View Drive, Jackson. Black History program. speaker: Marlon Houston. 10 a.m. Sunday, Feb. 2, 961-8228.
■ **Worship of Divine Methodical Research Center**, 5472 Walkers Drive, Suite D, Jackson. presents New 988 The Creative Maker: The New Mission and New Earth. 11 a.m. Sunday, Feb. 2, 961-3996.
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