CLINIC

Continued from Page 1

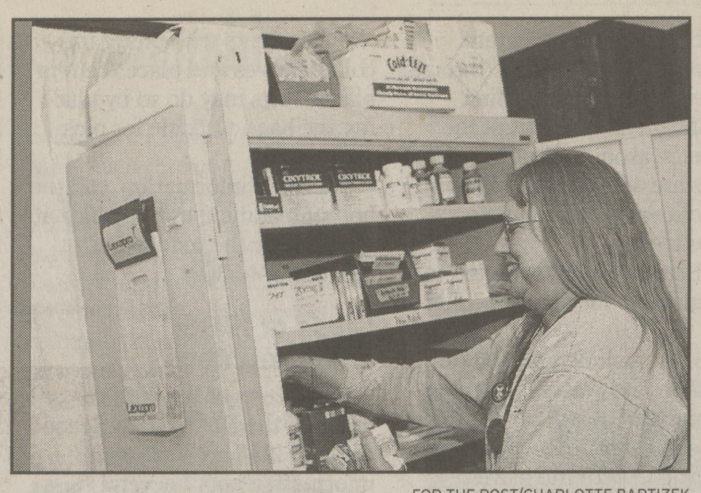
McNulty has had much to do with the funding development and coordination at the clinic.

The legal part of the clinic, operating since 1996, attends to broken relationships of other kinds. "We handle situations as broad as human nature," says Spohrer. Many are as simple as a neighbor with a barking dog or a domestic dispute, filling out insurance claim forms, or discussing estate matters. These are readily and easily handled when possible. Visiting the clinic can also be a way to get a second opinion.

The legal clinic does not charge for an initial conference; the service is a consultation that gives preliminary advice. If litigation is initiated the case is referred to another lawyer. "My understanding is that we cannot refer cases to ourselves," says Michael Melnick, another volunteer lawyer in the group whose specialty is medical and dental malpractice.

"The uniqueness and appeal of the clinic is, you get a pick of the litter of lawyers, who all have different specialties," says Walter. The lawyers roll up their sleeves, and without support staff or remuneration, help people.

Spohrer says, "As a lawyer, you know a little bit about a lot of things." The volunteer lawyers depend on each other for expertise.



FOR THE POST/CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK

Ann Baldo, LPN, fills the supply cabinet for the clinic. Supplies are, for the most part, donated. The cost of some prescriptions is reimbursed by the Commission on Economic Development. There are no narcotics stored at the clinic.

"Normally, if they need help I refer them right out to another lawyer. But I have made a few calls and some good suggestions myself to intervene," Melnick says. Sometimes all it takes are a few quick phone calls and the case is closed.

Kevin Grebas, a new attorney specializing in elder law, has jumped right into the spirit of the clinic. "It's a challenge, there are many different issues. Some nights there are six or seven people to see in an hour and a half. I have personally drafted wills and helped people with estate planning."

Sometimes the support is less tangible.

One client – whose name was withheld – had been injured falling in a parking lot. She said she was pressured to sign an insurance claim from the company's adjuster. "My knee was four times its normal size, and I wondered if I should sign the form the insurance adjuster had. He gave me the feeling I had done something wrong and maybe the knee didn't hurt. He (the lawyer at the clinic) helped me make a decision, gave me the confidence to go ahead with my claim. I would say to people 'Don't be hesitant to come to this clinic.' The people are very helpful and it was a wonderful experience."

That client's case is in court now and she plans to bring her elderly parents to the clinic because they have some estate questions too.

All the lawyers get a feeling of fulfillment from helping and find the work interesting and stimulating. Every five or six weeks Pat Dougherty, a founding member of his own law firm in Kingston, steps out of his own law practice to volunteer at the clinic.

"It's refreshing, totally different from the work I do every day and when I meet my family for supper after 8 on the Friday night I volunteer, I say to them 'We did a lot of good for a lot of people there.' And, the people leave with the feeling that they have been helped and that's very gratifying for me."

As well staffed as the legal clinic presently is, the medical clinic finds itself short-handed.

Nurse practitioners Matiska and Betsy Gaffney and Bloom are the only medical volunteers qualified to write prescriptions, so they are on a rotating shift every third week and have been serving for 10 years. "It would be great to have a few more RNs and LPNs and three more doctors to help. Any medically trained staff really would be appreciated," Matiska says.

Not that she is complaining. Rather, she's invigorated. "At the supermarket, a man I had helped in the clinic came up to me, he was so grateful and said, 'I just want to thank you and tell you that I finally have a job.' So it's a great satisfaction to be able to help here," she said.

"We could definitely use some more nurse volunteers, the last few times I was there I was alone," remembers Dr. Bloom. "I think the medical community in the Back Mountain is sensitive, yet don't know why we don't have more medical volunteers."

"It would be good, very good, to have some extra medical help here." sighs McNulty.

Attending the special 125 anniversary at Roaring Brook Baptist Church, from left, are Pastor Dan Brubaker, Bernadine Hoover, Gerald Gregory and Carson Whitesell.

HISTORY

Continued from Page 1

chard Yeager, Irene Yeager, Ruth Yeager and Anita Zimmerman.

The church's oldest member is Bernadine Hoover, who was brought to church by her parents Burt and Beatrice Hummel, when she was just two weeks old. Certificates of Appreciation were presented to those who attend Roaring Brook and are over 80. They are Bernadine Hoover, Carson Whitesell, John Ferguson, Elsie Mahoney and Ruth Yeager.

Certificates of Appreciation were also presented to those who have held a specific office for 10 years or longer. They included pastor Dan Brubaker, Ruth Ann Brubaker, Danny Brubaker, Ray Cease, Sharon Cease, Rick Garnett, Mark Griego, Barbara Griego, Bernadine Hoover, Daniel Hudzik, Ron Killian, Carl Martin, Sue Martin, Joe Martin, Lois Marvin, Tom Marvin, Ada Mushal, Estella Naugle, Joe Pearson, Scott Pearson, Delores Price, Kathy Ravert, Larry Ravert, Burl Updyke, Shirley Updyke, Carson Whitesell, Richard Yeager, Irene Yeager, Anita Zimmerman and Jeff Zimmerman.

The church's oldest member is Bernadine Hoover, who was brought to church by her parents Burt and Beatrice Hummel, when she was just two weeks old. Certificates of Appreciation were presented to those who attend Roaring Brook and are over 80.

The morning program was followed with a dinner in the church hall.

The committee members responsible for the program were Pastor Brubaker, Carson Whitesell, Karen Brubaker, Gloris Naugle, Anita Zimmerman, Sue Martin, Charlotte Ashton and Sharon Cease.

◆ PUZZLE ANSWERS

Puzzles, Page 2

King Crossword Answers

Solution time: 21 mins.

A	L	E			A	B	S			W	O	R	E	
L	O	A	N		B	R	A			I	D	O	L	
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Rational Numbers answers

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MADRIGAL

Continued from Page 11

nor dancers performed, and guests were also entertained by the jokes and tricks of a Jester who wandered from table to table during the course of the evening. The magic tricks of the Jester drew a crowd outside the entrance.

Dr. Francesca Bavuso, a first year Fine Arts professor at the college, enjoyed the performance immensely. Having performed in Madrigal Dinners at the University of California of Irvine for three years, she was happy this time to be a spectator. "I always support the theatrical arts. It's a wonderful tradition and I'm delighted to support it," said Bavuso with a smile.

Dr. John Curtis, the director of the Misericordia Fine Arts Department and coordinator of the Madrigal, became Lord John Curtis, as he fashioned his Renaissance attire, while leading the crowd in traditional Christmas carols to close out the evening.

He was pleased with the outcome of the dinner, and believes that the cast and crew succeeded in reconstructing the Student Bank Center into a picturesque scene from the Renaissance. "We really transform that place and take it back 500 year," said Curtis. However, what gives Dr. John Curtis the most pride is the looks on the student's faces when they are performing. The one thing that makes the Madrigal Dinner so special for him is, "watching new student performers on opening night."

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