

# SENIOR LIFESTYLES

## Every day dawns new at day care

By Kathleen Schwar  
Staff writer

ROCHESTER — Each client has a special reason for going to Park Place South West adult day services at St. Mary's Hospital — reasons they readily voiced Jan. 6.

Adelene Jones, 73, enjoys being with friends.

"I have quite a few friends," Jones laughed, looking about her. "I just can't remember their names."

Robert T. Lattimore, 75, likes the entertainment and occasional shopping.

Edwin Logan, 83, said the program is like a club. And "it's good for elderly people. It keeps your brain moving."

Olivia Hemphill, 70, enjoys helping to serve lunch. Proud of her independence, she asserted, "I live by myself. I am on my own. I am my own boss."

Booker T. Lett, 64, a former Missionary Baptist minister, likes to preach and teach.

But what really got all 15 or so of them going — even the more quiet clients — was debating. It began with one woman asking if others thought a woman should be president, and then asked, should a woman be a pastor?

"Read your Bible," insisted "Booker T." He said man was created first, to be in charge.

"Where does it say a woman can't be pastor?" a woman shot back.

"If God calls them, they should be," said Lizzie Williams, 74, one of several Baptists in the discussion.

"It's our time, dear," added program assistant Josephine Kendrick, nudging others to speak their minds. It seemed everyone had something to say, including some less vocal men who, when pressed, said there was nothing wrong with a woman pastoring.

"We all are friends. We argue like that," said Logan, sitting down after a vigorous finger-pointing speech.

"Politics. Religion. You get one person started on that and it's like wildfire," said Forestine Williams-Abdullah, coordinator, with a laugh.

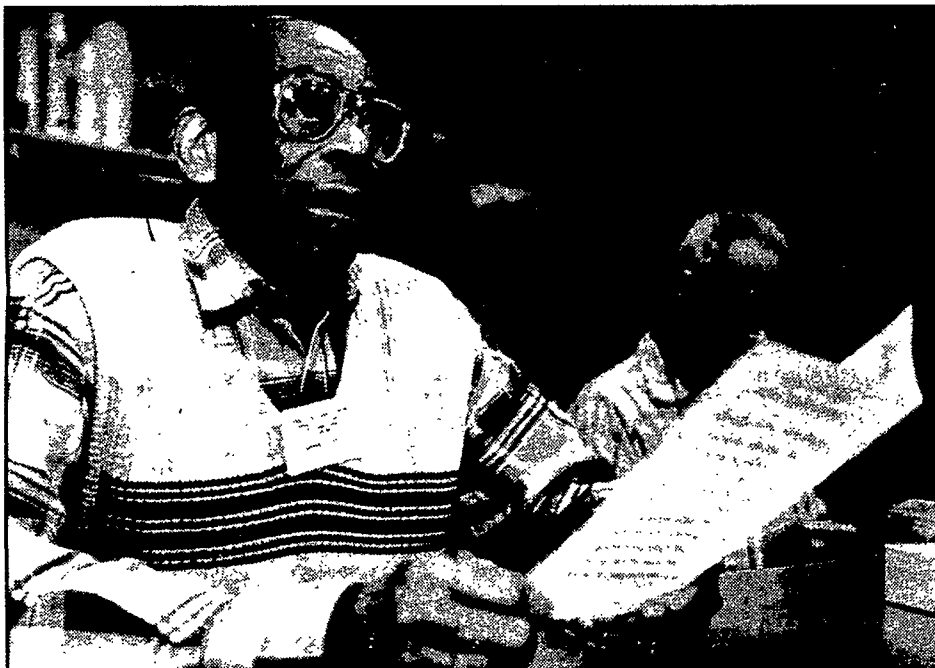
Begun in 1981 under the auspices of the Montgomery Neighborhood Center, the adult day care program moved to St. Mary's last March. An average of 20-25 people at least 60 years old attend on any one day. Clients may come for one to five days each week.

"Our program keeps them out of an institutional setting," Williams-Abdullah said. "We can't keep them in the com-



Greg Francis/Staff photographer

Adelene Jones, left, pushes a ball during the exercise game, "hot potato," Jan. 7 at Park Place South West adult day services at St. Mary's Hospital, Rochester. Near her is Lizzie Williams.



Edwin Logan sings "I love you, Lord" during a service led by the Rev. Richard Lewis of Lawson Road Church of Christ for participants of the Park Place South West program.

munity by ourselves, but that's our goal."

She said she completes a 15-page assessment on a prospective client. "Where there is a lack of services, we plug them into a system. When a person comes into the program and doesn't have a doctor, may not have had dental services for years, or needs an aide at home," she said, the program sets them up with such

services. But first, she said, it provides socialization.

Clients spend most days in devotions, playing bingo and such games as "The Price is Right," singing, listening to music, exercising, snacking and talking. Meanwhile, family members who may provide care at home have respite.

When Lett came, it was after he was

"involved in a CVA," a cerebrovascular accident. He insists that to say he had a stroke sounds as if he chose to have it.

"When people 'have a stroke,' they look at you like you're finished," he said. He acknowledged depression, however. He was no longer able to provide the service he enjoyed giving at his service station near Chicago, and moved to Rochester to live with his sister and her husband. They insisted he try the day care program.

"After I came here, the Lord just brought me back to life," he said.

Williams-Abdullah looks forward to moving the day care program this month to the Bishop Kearney Building at St. Mary's. There, workers are creating a community room, quiet room, a kitchen, arts and crafts room, shower room and rest rooms, and offices.

"Some people are really looking forward to getting into the kitchen and doing some baking," she said.

Various means of payment are available, she said. United Way and Monroe County Office for the Aging make it possible for seniors in the southwest of the city to attend free of charge. Medicaid covers some long-term health patients. Private-pay clients pay \$52 a day, or less, for a half-day.

There is no best part of the day care, said Nameless Felton, 80, who tries to attend every day. "All of it's good," she said.



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