



Staff Photo by Patricia B. Jones

**Beautician Mary Harmon styles Franke Home resident Effie Mizzell's hair during a recent visit to the home's beauty salon.**

# Franke Home hits 100 while considering move

**By PATRICIA B. JONES**  
Of The Post and Courier staff

The Franke Home is celebrating its 100th anniversary in a year that may be among its last at the downtown location.

Tony Fountain, executive director of the nursing home at 261 Calhoun Street, said the centennial celebration's theme, "Our Second Century — A New Beginning," reflects the changes that have occurred in the past year, including the possibility of relocating.

Fountain said a demographic study of the Charleston area is being conducted to determine where they should move. A decision should come next year, he said.

Possible sites include Mount Pleasant and West Ashley.

"We don't want to move because of the history and the tradition of being in historic downtown Charleston, but we know we need to expand the ministry to care for others, and to do that, we need to move," he said.

Fountain said the Franke Home has been the site for student internships for the College of Charleston, Trident Technical College and Bon Secours-St. Francis Xavier Hospital.

Fountain said that last April, an extended care program of assisted living was implemented at the Franke Home as a less costly alternative to nursing home care.

"We're looking to the future with the expectations of growing our ministry," said Foun-

tain. "We are willing to care for more people than the 66 we presently care for."

Fountain said additional services at a new site would include patio homes, extended living and nursing home care. "Assisted living allows a person to stay in a more homelike environment for a longer period of time without going to a nursing home. It's the bridge between residential living and nursing care."

Lottie Chapman, 84, has lived at the Franke Home for seven months. She said she has enjoyed being "semi-independent."

"I wanted to be on my own," said Mrs. Chapman. "One of my sons wanted me to come and live with him, but I told him I have my own life and he has to live his."

Fountain said they are planning a family support group, as well as co-sponsoring a Meals on Wheels Program for residents at the Canterbury House.

The anniversary celebration began last December with a reception at the Franke Home and recently wrapped up with a picnic.

The Franke Home was formerly operated in the Adger Mansion in 1907. It was expanded in 1959 and in 1970 moved to its present site.

The Franke Home is a non-profit home operated since 1892 by the Evangelical Lutheran Charities Society of Charleston. In 1991 it became a subsidiary of the Lutheran Homes of South Carolina.