

THE ARTS

Visual arts, literature,
theater, music & more

THE OIKOS COLLECTIVE

ARTS AND CRAFTS FOR ALL AGES AT OCEAN PARK'S FAMILY WORSHIP CENTER

By **LYNDA LAYNE**
FOR COAST WEEKEND

Family Worship Center pastors Don and Brenda Mower saw a need in Ocean Park and the surrounding community for people aspiring to do arts and crafts to learn from those with experience.

Don's solution: the Oikos Collective.

Standing at a table with evidence of art supplies, from glue to paint, on his hands, he explained the concept during a break from making collages with his son, Ezra.

"This is a community for artists and crafts people. I developed it myself," he said. "Oikos" is an ancient Greek word that dates back to Aristotle. "Our church developed a ministry built around Oikos, which means 'family' or 'house.'"

That's the first stage. "The second part is fellowship. The third, discipleship," he said.

But this is not a church service. There is no collection plate.

"Pastor Don's vision for Oikos Collective isn't so much an introduction to art as it is an artist collaborative where trained and seasoned artists can sit alongside beginners," Brenda, Don's wife, explained. "Everyone has art and beauty inside of them, and the Oikos Collective is an outlet for expressing that art and beauty."

Art for everyone

Don said beginners and advanced artists can flourish in this environment.

This was evident at the first monthly event, in February, when local artist Barbara Martin taught people how to make collages. All of the materials were provided: On a long table at the back of the room were stacks of magazines, rolls of crepe paper, tissue paper, a box of glue sticks, some burlap fabric and scores of supplies.

Don admitted that he has "no art skills." Yet he scooped up supplies, sat with Ezra and dove into his first collage.



Lynda Layne photos

TOP: Let the games begin. Within minutes of the instructor's introduction to the art of collage, magazines and other supplies were strewn all over one of the round tables, and hands wielding scissors were at work. **LEFT:** Pastor Don Mower, who confessed to having 'no art skills,' quickly caught on to creating a collage, as did his son, Ezra. **RIGHT:** Instructor Barbara Martin put together a collage of Vincent van Gogh, using a variety of colors and textures.



See *Oikos*, Page 14