



Barb Presswood Frost (extreme right) celebrates the opening of her store Le Studio in Georgetown. It's a total beauty care salon located on Main Street. (Herald photo)

Hope Chest bookstore has tips on marriage

If you're getting married and want some coaching from a professional on what it's all about, there's probably a book for you.

At Georgetown's Hope Chest, a Christian bookstore that also sells music tapes and gift items, you'll find a number of selections on getting married.

Says the proprietor of the Wesleyan Street store, Linda Ryan, there's a wide range of books on marriage, some of them recommended by ministers taking courses on the subject.

Most popular are the counselling type books, but each book serves its own purpose, she says.

Two books that are top sellers from the counselling type are "Communication in Marriage" and "The Active Marriage", she says.

Another popular choice is a book called "Marriage Takes More Than Love", she says.

"I like to highly recommend books that stress communication because that's what I think is important," Mrs. Ryan says.

The Hope Chest also has books for people who are having trouble with their marriage and are seeking advice on ways to help, she says.

If you're looking for wedding invitations the store also carries a wide variety plus other items needed for the wedding. You'll find goblets, garters, pillows, knives and plaques that can be engraved for gifts, Mrs. Ryan says.

One gift suggestion is a family bible for a newly married couple.

The store is called The Hope Chest because

there are a lot of items in the building that give hope and build faith, Mrs. Ryan says.

Born in Sudbury, Mrs. Ryan bought the store in June of 1982. Since 1974 she has been in Georgetown, formerly working for lawyer Dick Howitt.

The store was originally called the Georgetown Christian Bookroom, but Mrs. Ryan wanted a less subtle type name.

She tripled the stock to increase the variety of items and brought in more gift selections.

Tips on watching the costs

— Know what the average wedding costs in your area are - if your friends will tell you. Though we can give a national figure, prices vary tremendously.

— Talk openly about the possibility of both families sharing expenses. Then, get everyone's idea of how much they think the wedding should cost.

— If cash is limited and your guest list enormous, scale down

visions of prime ribs and an open bar, rent a hall big enough for everyone and serve cake and punch instead. (The punch can still be spiked!).

— Consider wedding packages that may save time as well as money - packages where flowers, cake, liquor, etc. are included.

— Do work with a budget, but leave a portion of money unmarked to deal with all the little

things that come up (cake boxes for the groom's cake?).

— If you must pare the guest list, agree on a formula that's arbitrary. For instance, no first cousins; no business clients. Apply the rule to both families.

— When working with the bridal shop or salon owner, the florist, the photographer, etc., be very clear about what you want and don't want.



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