

Churches Share VBS

It's Grass Roots Ecumenism

By Kathy Moran

It could be called an exercise in ecumenism at the grass-roots level.

Thirty-one children ranging in age from four to 11 spread out in the grassy backyard of Mrs. Barb Hannum listening to Bible stories and hearing how the sun and trees and all things beautiful are like God.

Interrupted occasionally by the appearance of Heidi, the dog, the children were learning about God in this area's first Bible School sponsored jointly by Protestant and Catholic churches.

THE ECUMENICAL project is an outgrowth of the Bible school sponsored last summer by St. Timothy Presbyterian Church and Church of the Savior. This year it was expanded to include two other Livonia churches, St. Ediths Catholic Church and Church of the Disciples.

"Part of the genius of the schools is that they get the kids in the neighborhood with their regular playmates sharing a religious life together," the Rev. Carl Gundersen, pastor of St. Timothy, said.

More than 250 children participating in the first week of the program were divided by neighborhood—not by faith—into 11 backyards to study Jesus' life and how life can apply to theirs.

"We are trying to have the children learn about God and Jesus and how, hopefully, they can incorporate Him into their own lives," Mrs. Doranne Blaxom, one of the teachers, said.

They started July 28 with miserable weather and children crammed into basements and garages but, according to Rev. Gundersen, there was a



ECUMENICAL BIBLE SCHOOL — Children are divided by neighborhoods, not denominations, in the vacation Bible school undertaken by four Livonia churches.

This group is playing Simon Says in the backyard of Mrs. Barbara Hannum, 26629 Grove. (Observer photo)

good turnout and the enthusiasm was high.

The next day began at 9:30 a.m. with better weather and stories from the Bible about Christ healing the sick. After the stories, the children discussed how the stories apply to them.

Two older children then led them in playing the bear hunt game, bringing laughter and excitement from the children while three of the four helping mothers prepared a snack of Kool-aid and cookies.

MAKING the "joy" balloons

was the highlight of the morning as the children drew pictures of "things that make them happy" and "nature pictures that are like God" and tied them to their balloon rope for tails.

The wisdom of youth was reflected in the pictures labeled "I like rain," and pictures of trees and flowers that remind one of God.

Each of the 11 programs differed according to the teachers but they all revolved around the themes of love, joy, peace, hope and faith.

To avoid infringing on any

of the religions represented, stories were taken from the Bible to point up the themes and teach about Jesus' life.

OTHER ACTIVITIES have been jointly organized by the churches such as puppet exchanges, living room dialogues and joint meetings, and, according to Rev. Gundersen "the climate is such that we can expect more joint activities."

The second session of the schools will begin July 27 in nine locations within the area running from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Livonia Man Named To High Elk Post

H. Dow Tunis, 29843 Lori, Livonia, is the new district deputy grand exalted ruler of the southeastern Michigan district of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. His installation was announced during the recent 108th Grand Lodge convention of the Elks in San Francisco. He will be responsible for coordinating and supervising the Grand Lodge programs with the 16 lodges in the Detroit Metropolitan area of which Livonia, Farmington, Plymouth and Redford are members.

TUNIS WAS INITIATED into the Order in 1957 at Saginaw Lodge No. 47 as a third generation Elk.

In 1961, soon after moving to Livonia, he was instrumental in the formation of Livonia Lodge No. 2246 as a sponsor and charter member. After serving as esteemed loyal knight and esteemed leading knight he was elected exalted ruler of that lodge in 1964.

Since 1965 Tunis has served this national fraternal order as district sergeant-at-arms, member of the District Ritual Committee from 1965 to the present, member of the Michigan Elks Association New Lodge Committee 1968-1969, grand exalted ruler of the district vice president in 1967 and grand exalted ruler of the district deputy in 1969.

District chairman and vice president Michigan Elks Association in 1967 and appointed both Southeast District and state chaplain of the Michigan Elks Association for 1969-1970.

In 1967, Livonia Lodge elected Tunis to honorary life membership, and in 1969 he was elected president of the Livonia Past Exalted Rulers Association.

TUNIS is employed by the Ford Motor Co. He is a graduate of the Michigan State University, school of business administration.

In addition to his fraternal activities he has served as president of the Michigan State Alumni Association 1962, 1963 and 1966 and as a continuous Board member since 1960. He has also served two terms as president of the Phi Kappa Sigma Alumni Association.



H. DOW TUNIS



REV. JOSEPH F. FERENS

New Parish Opening

The Rev. Joseph F. Ferens, recently appointed pastor of the new St. Colette Catholic parish in Livonia, will conduct the first masses in Dickerson Junior High at 8 and 10 a.m. Sunday, July 26.

The parish will be located east of Newburgh Road and just north of Six Mile. Plan for the church are in the formative stages and no date for construction has been set.

Bethany Baptist Hosts Speaker

The Rev. Roland DeFenzo, dean of the Miami Bible College in Miami, Fla., will speak in the Bethany Baptist Church at 11 a.m. Sunday, July 26. Rev. DeFenzo is the former pastor of Westland Baptist Church and was a school counselor in the metropolitan area.

VBS Set By St. Peter

"My Country Under God" is the theme of the Vacation Bible School planned by St. Peter Lutheran Church, 1345 Penniman, Plymouth.

Children between four and 14 years of age can attend the school from 9 to 11:45 a.m. Monday through Friday from Aug. 3 to 14.

The school will be divided into two morning sessions. The first will be Bible stories and lessons related to the theme and the second half will be handicrafts for the children.

Registration will be from 8:45 to 9:15 a.m. Monday, Aug. 3, in the church basement fellowship room.

A closing program will be presented by the students at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Aug. 14, followed by a social hour when parents and friends can meet the teachers and staff.



THE BRIDGE, a gospel folk group, will perform at Grand River Baptist Church in Livonia on Tuesday, July 28. The six members of the group from Judson College in Elgin, Ill., are Don McCoy, standing at left, Mark Johnson and Kathy Browley, and sitting, Connie Williamson, Ruth Platz and Sue Elson.

Gospel Concert Planned

An outdoor concert by the gospel folk group, The Bridge, will be given on the east lawn of the Grand River Baptist Church, 3450 Six Mile, Livonia, at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, July 28.

In the event of rain the concert will be held in the church social hall.

A mixture of popular and Christian folk music will be presented by the six-member group from Judson College in Elgin, Ill. As part of their 90-minute program, they will share their spiritual experiences and devotional thoughts.

The First Baptist Church of Plymouth, Nankin Mills Baptist Church of Westland, Alpha Baptist Church of Livonia and Ward Memorial Presbyterian Church in Detroit are participating in the concert.

City Of New York Is Youth Convention Scene

The whole city of New York will be the "stage," Madison Square Garden will be "back stage" — a place for regrouping and for getting "cues."

That's the plan for what unquestionably will be the most unorthodox convention of church youth ever to hit the great metropolis, to open Aug. 19.

It will be the triennial gathering of the Luther League of the American Lutheran Church. Registrations total 15,140. Each registrant has paid \$19.95 in advance and will pay an additional \$30 on arrival. The \$49.95 covers cost of housing and program—no food.

Mostly high school age youth, they will come from all sections of the nation, the largest student numbers from Iowa, Minnesota, Wisconsin and the Dakotas, where the ALC has its greatest membership concentration.

The youth will make their own convention after they arrive, the planners explain.

"And we say we care." Emphasis will be on care for the world.

CARE FOR THE CITY of New York will be the first order of business during the daily "Morning in the City" sessions.

The youth will be encouraged to find and to study the "caretakers of New York"—meaning street cleaners, window washers, park attendants, subway attendants, welfare workers, (religious and secular) and hundreds of others, according to the Rev. John Schultz, Minneapolis, program director.

"A greater miracle than the creation of a great city," Mr. Schultz explained, "is the day to day existence, the result of work by thousands of jumble people who care."

The youth will make their own convention after they arrive, the planners explain.

They will live in 10 midtown hotels, clustered in groups of no more than nine, each with its own adult counselor—boys and girls grouped separately.

Each counselor group is free to plan its own "morning in the city," choosing from more than 20 possible pre-arranged activities ranging from day care centers in Harlem to Staten Island, the bowerly and the New York Stock Exchange.

Simple sight-seeing, tourist style, is not contemplated.

Participants will give "care for the world" attention at afternoon and evening programs in Madison Square Garden.

On Wednesday, Aug. 19, the subject will be hunger, with Sen. George McGovern, of South Dakota, speaking. Thursday's speaker will be Dr. Leopoldo Nilus, an Argentine now serving in Geneva as director of the World Council of Churches Commission on International Affairs.

Vocalist Pete Seeger, folk singer with a cause, will be featured at the Friday afternoon session dealing with environment. Robert Theobald, British economist, will be heard on Saturday.

EVENING SESSIONS on Wednesday, Friday and Saturday will bring the conventioners into contact with the cultures, frustrations and potentials existing among the peoples of Latin America, Asia and Africa, in that order.

Most of the planning for the unusual convention has been done by the youth leaders themselves, according to Mr. Schultz.

In addition to the "back stage" events in the Garden, elaborate plans have been made to convert a portion of the Statler Hilton Hotel into a "Care Center" where a variety of activities, rap sessions, workshops, and unstructured youth innovations will take place at otherwise unscheduled times.

Vocal and instrumental groups, (professional and amateur) multi-media spectacles, interviews, and other products of energetic, imaginative, creative youth will be loosed on Manhattan in what the planners believe will be a significant example of religiously oriented American youth at their best.

Attend Church This Sunday

At The Church Of Your Choice

With Your Family

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| <p>UNITED METHODIST</p> <p>FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH of Garden City 6443 Merritt Road Livonia Phone: 421-8628 Minister: Rev. Glenn Kellers SUNDAY SCHOOL 10 a.m. Infants through grade 11:10 Adults, Young Adults, Sr. High and Jr. High MORNING WORSHIP 10 a.m. only</p> <p>NEWBURG UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 36500 Ann Arbor Trail Livonia 422-0149 Rev. Ben Schuch Pastor 329-1827 8:30 a.m. Worship Service 10 a.m. Morning Service and Church School</p> <p>FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH of Plymouth 680 Church Street Livonia 453-5280 Ministry: Paul M. Carpo and Ronald K. Cort 9:30 a.m. Summer Worship Service Church School Nursery thru 6th grade only</p> <p>CLARENCEVILLE METHODIST CHURCH 20300 Middlebelt, Livonia 9:00 a.m. First Worship Service 10:30 a.m. Church School 11:30 a.m. Second Service of Devotion 6:30 a.m. Youth Meetings 7:30 a.m. Evening Service 7:30 p.m. Wednesday - The Mid Week Service Nursery provided in all services Elsa A. Johns, Minister</p> <p>ALDERGATE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH (Redford Township) 10000 Beach-Daly Road (between 10 and West Chicago) Livonia 422-6038 Wm. G. Wozniak, Wm. M. Smith, Jr., Dir. of Education, Mrs. The Wright, Music, Worship 9:30 a.m. Church School 9:30 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. Early service provided for all services</p> <p>St. Matthew's United Methodist Church 30900 Six Mile Road Livonia 422-6038 Paul T. Hart, Pastor Helen Ferris, Associate Pastor Summer Services Worship Service and Church School (high school)</p> <p>Rico Memorial United Methodist Beach Daly at 8 Mile Rev. James R. Barnes, Pastor Worship Service 10 a.m. Kindergarten & Nursery 10 a.m. 524-5333</p> <p>UNITY OF WEST SUBURBIA 30025 Curtis Road 421-1740 A MESSAGE FOR THINKING PEOPLE Diagrams for Living - Tues. - 7:30 p.m. Dist-A-Prayer 261-2440 Sunday Service 9:30 and 11 a.m. Youth Education 11 a.m.</p> | <p>PRESBYTERIAN</p> <p>St. Mark's Presbyterian Church 26701 Joy Road Worship and Church School 10 a.m. Church Office: CR 8-9340</p> <p>WARD UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF LIVONIA Farmington Road and Six Mile Road 422-1150 Worship and Church School 9:15 and 11:30 a.m. "Early King, Early Habit, Early Death" The King Who Died at Twenty-four Rev. Franklin Williams Jr. The Field of Blood Rev. Franklin Williams Jr. Wednesday Evening 7:30 p.m. Mid-Week Service Nursery Provided AIR CONDITIONED SANCTUARY</p> <p>ROSEDALE GARDENS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH Hubbard at West Chicago Worship: 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. CHURCH SCHOOL 10 a.m. Richard C. Dunkelberger, Pastor Arthur Williams, Jr., Associate Pastor William T. Lovick, Associate Pastor GARFIELD 2-0494</p> <p>CHURCH OF GOD</p> <p>CHURCH OF CHRIST Christian and Missionary Alliance 28111 West Ten Mile Road - 476-7673 Between Middlebelt and Jabber Road Worship Service 11 a.m. Bible School 9:45 a.m. "New Power" Paul D. Bernke, Pastor 474-6437</p> <p>CHURCH OF CHRIST 1657 Middlebelt at Rock Garden City - GA 2-8650 Minister, Robert E. Ashby Sunday Worship 11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. Sunday School 10 a.m. Mid-Week & Wed. 7:30 p.m. For information please call Miss Kathy Porter - 422-3175</p> <p>CHURCH OF CHRIST</p> <p>KENWOOD CHURCH OF CHRIST 19601 Middlebelt, Royal Livonia Phone: 424-2812 Sunday Bible School - 9:45 a.m. Worship Service - 11:00 a.m. Evening Service - 6:30 p.m. Youth Group - 7:30 p.m. Wed. Eve. Service - 7:30 p.m. Wed. Youth Group - 6:30 p.m. Ler Baltzer, Minister Parish Office Phone 424-0684 Christian's Home: 425-2100 Sunday: 1-45, WBLS</p> <p>MEMORIAL CHURCH OF CHRIST 35475 Five Mile Livonia BIBLE SCHOOL 9 a.m. MORNING WORSHIP 10 a.m. 7 p.m. Youth meetings and evening worship Miss Colleen, Minister Craig Fox, Youth Minister</p> <p>CHRISTIAN SCIENCE</p> <p>You are cordially invited to attend Sunday School as listed below. Sunday Schools are conducted by all churches, and care is provided for children of pre-Sunday School age.</p> <p>Wednesday Testimonial Meetings at 8 p.m.</p> <p>Hours of Service</p> <p>FOURTH CHURCH, Detroit 11 a.m. 24400 W. Seven Mile near Telegraph</p> <p>FIRST CHURCH, Garden City 11 a.m. 33111 Ford Road</p> <p>FIRST CHURCH, Plymouth 10:30 a.m. 1100 West Ann Arbor Trail</p> |
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