

Health care is subject for Christian Scientists

"Humanity's quest for health" set a distinct tone for the 98th annual meeting of members of The First Church of Christ, Scientist in Boston early this month.

First Church of Christ, Scientist, Farmington is one of 2,600 branches of the Boston-based Mother Church. Branch churches are in 68 countries around the world.

Helping society find solutions to health care challenges including the well-being of children and families was a primary concern at the meeting. Because of deepening public discontent over health care and mandated medicine, it was felt answers can no longer be put off.

Many people are searching for fresh solutions to pressing health care issues. Yet, hardened stands by organizations as diverse as those representing doctors and atheists, resist religious alternatives to conventional medicine.

In a special statement, however, the Christian Science Board of Directors offered this reminder: "Christians of many denominations are actively involved in healing services and prayers for the sick." They pointed out that many people around the world have found Christian healing an effective remedy in modern-day society.

For 300 years following the ministry of Christ Jesus, the practice of healing through prayer was a nor-

mal part of Christian life. With the discovery of Christian Science by Mary Baker Eddy a little over 100 years ago, adherents claim, this basic element of Christianity was renewed.

Growth in church attendance and increased interest in Christian healing run counter to efforts by special interest groups to reject healing through prayer. For example, a recent American Medical Association resolution challenging spiritual healing calls on insurance companies to stop their 70-year-old practice of covering treatment through prayer.

INSTEAD OF opposition, there should be more honest exploration of the spiritual values and healing resulting from the practice of Christian Science, not "organized bigotry and repression," according to the board's statement. "Any effort to separate health and healing, compassion and caring, from the religious life of mankind is more than thoughtless; it is self-defeating."

Many of the activities of The First Church of Christ, Scientist, this past year were focused on the welfare of children and the restoration of strength to families.

The Christian Science Publishing Society's Monitor Channel on cable television was launched with a series on children, "Childhood: A Journey."

The May issue of World Monitor magazine featured articles on children's issues including an in-depth report entitled "Growing Up Confident." The church's daily newspaper, The Christian Science Monitor, ran two major series: "Raising Children: Who's in Charge?" and "Being 16 Around the World."

Reports given at the meeting highlighted the importance of seeing Christian Science as not merely an alternative to conventional medical care but as a deeply Christian way of life that finds healing through commitment to Bible precepts and practical spirituality.

Well-documented healing of diabetes, deafness, epilepsy, hepatitis and pneumonia were reported at the meeting. Videotaped interviews were shown of individuals discussing their healings of life-threatening hemorrhaging and severe, long-standing pleurisy.

The half-day meeting, which will be rebroadcast on shortwave radio in English, German, Spanish, French, and Portuguese, was opened by Jurgen Kurt Stark of Boston, outgoing president of The Mother Church. The incoming president is Jill Gooding of Surrey, England.



Stay Alive

Three members of Harrison High's Class of '91, Mike Wollers, Daryl Ferguson and Lori Stanko, take their turn signing the "Stay Alive, Don't Drink and Drive" contract. The schoolwide program, sponsored by McCabe

Funeral Home, prohibits seniors from purchasing prom tickets without signing the agreement. Students must perform five hours of community service for any infraction of the contract.

Appalachian lore comes to the center

America's richest musical tradition comes to the amphitheater on the grounds of The Community Center when Jeff Robbins plays, sings and tells stories of Appalachia and Appalachian lore at 7 p.m. Friday, June 14.

Robbins is a native of southwestern Virginia and now lives in Black Mountain, N.C. He spent most of his life immersed in Appalachian music and culture.

He built his own banjo when he was a teenager, and learned mountain music while a student in Warren Wilson College. He taught banjo and guitar in the school's curriculum and was the student acting director.

Robbins is a member of the Green

Island Pickers, which has amassed many prizes at prestigious fiddlers' conventions. Those victories led to a recording session for the Library of Congress.

Along the way he won prizes on his own for banjo, fiddle and dancing. He is now on the Linear Group team that brings cable television listeners "Fire on the Mountain."

As an entertainer Robbins covers most aspects of the performing arts in the southern mountains. He sings and plays banjo, lap dulcimer, autoharp, fiddle, guitar and mandolin, and punctuates his performances by calling simple square dances.

Admission to the concert is \$4, or \$15 for a family, at the gate.

Choral group performs Monday

The Bel Canto Choral Society will conclude its 1990-91 season with its annual spring concert 8 p.m. Monday at Congregation Beth Achim, 21100 12 Mile.

Admission is free and the public may attend. The group, under the direction of Eugene Branstrom and

accompanying by pianist Rochelle Barr, will perform works by Bernstein, Copland, Rachmaninoff and Berlioz.

Bel Canto is a non-profit, non-sectarian organization, co-sponsored by the Southfield Parks and Recreation Department.

For more information about the concert, call Freda Mendelsohn at 352-8037.

Free legal aid

Oakland County Legal Aid Society provides free legal aid to all people 65 and older who live in Oakland County. Questions will be answered by calling 333-1881.

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The classes are given in Livonia, Garden City, Redford and Novi to service those in all surrounding communities.

Registration information is given by the registrar at 937-0665.

HILL AND DALE GARDEN CLUB meets at 7 p.m. today in The Community Center, on Farmington Road north of 10 Mile.

Guests are welcome to attend the June reception and installation of officers.

WESTSIDE SINGLES meet for dance parties at 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday in Roma's of Livonia, Schoolcraft service drive, west of Inkster Road.

The singles hot line is 562-3150.

FARMINGTON SINGLE PROFESSIONALS play volleyball at 6:45 every Tuesday in Heritage Park.

The singles meet at 7 p.m. Friday in Mr. Joe's, 26077 12 Mile (east of Northwestern Highway), for a Burger and Movie Night.

For a complimentary copy of the group's newsletter listing all activities-for-the-month-call-the-information line, 478-9181.

FARMINGTON NEIGHBORS CLUB invites guests to a luncheon

and bingo party at noon Wednesday, June 19, in Glen Oaks Country Club to welcome the new officers for the coming season.

All of the members and guests are asked to wear their favorite hats.

There will be prizes for the hats as well as the bingo winners.

Reservations must be made by 4 p.m. Friday, June 14, with Helen Benner, 471-1544, or Jean Kallmeier, 477-1795.

SINGLE PLACE singles meet at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, June 19, in First Presbyterian Church of Northville, 200 E. Main St., for a program called "What Is It We Project."

Speaker for the evening is Alex Costinew, a specialist in family-oriented psychotherapy for adults and adolescents who shares his insights in exploring personality messages that are projected through speech, dress, manner and attitude. Donation is \$3 at the door.

WEDNESDAY SUBURBAN SINGLES meet at 8 p.m. June 19 in Bonnie Brook Country Club, Telegraph south of Eight Mile. Proper attire is requested. Fee is \$3 at the door. The singles hot line is 842-0443.

All club news and announcements for this column are to be addressed to Club Circuit, Farmington Observer, 21938 Farmington Road, Farmington 48336. The information must arrive before noon on the Monday before Thursday publication.

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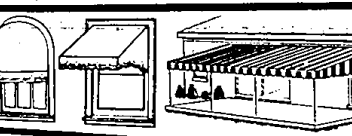
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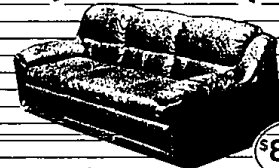
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