

Church school travels back to biblical days

A SPECIAL program at one area church summer school helped students turn back the pages of history last week.

More than 100 children attending school at the First Presbyterian Church of Farmington learned first-hand what it was like to live in biblical times during a weeklong learning unit called "Bethlehem B.C. — Ways Bible People Lived."

"This is the second year we've used this format," said Sue Carlson, director of the vacation church school.

"It's to help them understand Bible stories and Bible life."

PARTICIPANTS ages 4-11 not only learned and discussed Bible lessons, but found out about occupations during that time including harvesting wheat and other crops, making bricks and what it was like to be a shepherd.

The church is on Farmington Road at 11 Mile in Farmington Hills.

During this year's summer school, children were divided differently for their lessons, Carlson said.

Instead of being grouped by age as they were in the past, the church set up family units so children of different ages could interact. They named each of 10 families after a biblical tribe of Israel.

"It stresses unity within the family," she added.



Church member and volunteer Don Stewart of Wolverine Lake gets 8-year-old Ryan Ehred of Farmington Hills involved with a skit during a summer church school at the First Presbyterian Church of Farmington.



Monica Sandoval, 8, of Farmington Hills, holds a staff for one of the characters during a re-enactment of biblical times.



Don Stewart, playing Jacob the Shepherd, plays a wooden flute to call the Naphtali family to gather and listen to a story. The flute was used for entertainment, to herd the flock and for worship.



Children attending the First Presbyterian Church summer camp are split into families to allow interaction of the various age groups. Families were given names from the Bible. Members of the Naphtali family include (l-r): Ryan Ehred, 8; Peter Cohen, 4; Lindsay Joy, 5; Jenny Roff, 15, an assistant family head; and Mary Alice Tudor, 6. All are from Farmington Hills.

photos by SHARON LEMIEUX/staff photographer

W. Hartsock announces bid for re-election to council

By Casey Hans
staff writer

Farmington city councilman William Hartsock has thrown his hat into the political ring, saying he will run for re-election this fall.

"I feel really comfortable running again — I look forward to it," said the 40-year-old veteran councilman, who first won election to his seat in 1973.

Voters will fill three seats on the five-member, non-partisan city council in the general election this November.

BOTH HARTSOCK and councilman Ralph Yoder, 65, are completing four-year terms on the council, while councilwoman JoAnne McShane is completing her first two-year term.

McShane, 45, said last week she will seek re-election; Yoder has not yet made a decision. Also, former council member Arnold Campbell, 40, said he plans to run for office this year.

Campbell said he feels he would

be a "viable option" for voters this year.

"I think I have a lot to add to the council," he said. "There were some unfinished things I want to follow up on."

ALTHOUGH HE has not yet formed up his political platform, Hartsock said his years of experience on the council gives him a special view of city government.

Hartsock believes he offers a balanced view of issues, and believes that is an important element to retain on the council.

"You have to view things, literally, from the other side of the table," he said.

"If I were a resident in the audience, how would I view it? But, as a council member, you must continue to keep the whole community in mind."

Hartsock, an account executive with Honey & Co., served as the city's mayor in 1979 and 1985.

McShane is an account representative with Horace Mann Insurance, and Yoder is a retired trucking com-

pany executive who also served as the city's mayor. Campbell is a product problem analyst for Ford Motor.

FOR OTHER residents interested in running for the city council, nominating petitions are now available at the Farmington city clerk's office and can be circulated any time.

Candidates must collect between 50 and 75 signatures of registered voters on their petitions, and return the completed petitions to the city clerk between Aug. 6 and 16. Petitions must be filed no later than 5 p.m. Aug. 16.

The two top vote-getters will each earn four-year terms, while the third place winner will receive a two-year term. To qualify as a candidate, a person must be a resident of the city at least 18 years of age and a registered voter.

Others serving staggered terms on the Farmington City Council include Mayor Shirley Richardson and councilman Richard Tupper. The council meets regularly on the first and third Mondays of each month.

Slain teen had attended Mercy

By Greg Kowalski
staff writer

Nikki Hamilton's family is trying to cope with her shooting death Monday night, but her mother said it's a painful process.

"It was so cruel and evil. How can this be allowed?" asked M. Nell Hamilton.

Nikki Hamilton, 19, of Bloomfield Hills was shot as she stood outside of a house in Pontiac.

She was a student at the Oakland Community College Orchard Ridge campus. She attended Mercy High School in Farmington and Our Lady of the Lakes in Waterford.

Her mother said the teen had gone to visit a friend's house on South Paddock at about 10:40 p.m. when a car drove by and at least two of the occupants of the car opened fire.

Police said the car, an older model Pontiac, made one pass down the street, made a U-turn and drove

back with the occupants firing a second time.

"EVERYONE ELSE felt to the ground, but she panicked and tried to run," Mrs. Hamilton said.

Hamilton was hit once in the chest during the first pass by the car.

The car was later found at the Lakeside Homes public housing complex.

Hamilton was taken to Pontiac Osteopathic Hospital where she was pronounced dead on arrival.

Hamilton, who worked at the Shopping Center Markets, in West Bloomfield, planned to go to law school in the fall, her mother said.

"Her life is just a closed book now," her mother said. "All these things are happening. Innocent people are being killed. They'll catch them, then give them probation then let them go."

POLICE DECLINED to give a possible motive for the shooting and said the investigation is continuing.

However, police were investigating the possibility that the shooting may have been related to another Tuesday involving rival gangs.

Hamilton is not believed to have been involved in any gangs but was an innocent bystander caught in the gunfire.

Police were trying to determine if the gunman were aiming at the home or the group of people.

On Tuesday, three males, age 15, 19 and 20 were shot by someone in a passing truck at about 10 p.m. on the 300 block of Branch Street. Police said that shooting may have been in retaliation to the shooting on Monday.

Funeral arrangements were being handled through Cobb's Funeral Home in Pontiac, but services were to be held in Tusculum, Ala.

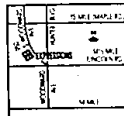
Hamilton is survived by her parents, Walter and M. Nell and a twin brother, Nicholas.

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