

BELIEFS & Values

Voyager

One-man play presents spiritual journey

BY RENA FULKA
SPECIAL WRITER

The spiritual struggle of an atheist and agnostic who eventually embraced Christianity will spring to life in Oakland County when Mark F. McPherson takes center stage in "From Narnia, With Love: The Spiritual Voyage of C.S. Lewis."

The Daedalus Productions presentation about famed Christian author and apologist C.S. Lewis begins at 6 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 8, at Nativity Episcopal Church, 21220 W. 14 Mile in Bloomfield Township.

"The play reflects what C.S. Lewis believed to be basic Christianity, plain and simple, and attempts to articulate his answers to a variety of questions which people in today's world have," said McPherson, creator and director of Daedalus Consultancy/Field Investigation.

"From Narnia, With Love" is the sixth one-character drama written and performed by the

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Mark McPherson
"From Narnia, With Love: The Spiritual Voyage of C.S. Lewis"

Grosse Ile playwright, actor, historical researcher and author.

"Before now, I have dealt with egocentric, bombastic, even dangerous characters in literature and history," said McPherson, who has portrayed Conan Doyle, Winston Churchill, George Bernard Shaw, Charles Dickens and Wyatt Earp. "But Lewis is different, and I have the odd feeling that he has been waiting quite a while for me to

catch up with him."

It was during his college days, while exploring traditional and non-traditional avenues of faith that McPherson found a sense of clarity in Lewis' "Mere Christianity," "The Screwtape Letters," and "The Chronicles of Narnia."

He was also intrigued with Lewis' eventual conversion to Christianity.

"Like so many of us, he felt too smart for his own good," said McPherson, of the character he now brings to life. "Once he could get past the barrier, he was home free in a variety of ways. In this fashion, I have wanted to show believers as well as non-believers that for even the most devoutly spiritual individuals, the course to true faith is never easy."

The Rev. Anne Cox, rector of Nativity Episcopal Church, grew up reading Lewis' allegorical children's stories and is looking forward to the upcoming performance.

"McPherson actually becomes C.S. Lewis, so basically he's

talking to people as that kind of character. He draws you into that world and gets you to walk with him," said Cox. "I think the audience will probably learn something about C.S. Lewis' thought and I think they'll have fun. Mark has a good sense of humor. And he'll be weaving some of Narnia in, so it will be somewhat fantastical."

"From Narnia, With Love" made its debut in November at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul in Detroit, and will tour the Midwestern states before traveling abroad to Oxford University, where Lewis once taught, and to Belfast, Ireland, where Lewis was born.

"From Narnia, With Love: the Spiritual Voyage of C.S. Lewis" begins at 6 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 8, at Nativity Episcopal Church, 21220 W. 14 Mile, between Lahser and Evergreen, Bloomfield Township. Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased at the door or in advance at the church. A reception with McPherson follows.



On stage: Mark F. McPherson plays C.S. Lewis in a performance at Nativity Episcopal Church.

Whorf hosts family Yule program of stories, music

Radio personality Mike Whorf of Bloomfield Hills will host a family evening of Christmas stories and music at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 13, at St. Perpetua's Church in Waterford.

Called "A Canterbury Christmas," the program will include music and stories for all ages. The choir will feature members from All Saints, Pontiac; Christ Church Cranbrook, Bloomfield Hills; St. Andrew's, Waterford; St. James, Birmingham; and St. John's, Royal Oak.

It will combine with Canterbury staff members to form a Canterbury choir.

This choir, accompanied by organ and piano, will provide a definitive descrip-

tion of the Yuletide entitled "The Magic of Christmas." Whorf, WJR radio personality, will take you into the past with portraits and scenes detailing the significance of the season.

Martha Bones (St. James Episcopal Church) and Sandy Middleton (St. Andrew's Episcopal Church) are co-chairing the event, which is a benefit for The Good Samaritan Fund at Canterbury-on-the-Lake. Tickets are: benefactor (reserved seating), \$25; general seating, \$15; children (12 and younger), \$7.50.

Tickets and information are available at Canterbury-on-the-Lake, 5601 Hatchery Road, Waterford, (810) 674-9292.

Emerson Church greets interim minister with welcome reception

Emerson Church and its executive board welcome a new interim minister, the Rev. Norman Naylor, to the church.

Naylor and his wife, Betsy, were guests of honor at an informal reception Sunday.

Naylor has 35 years' experience in the Unitarian Universalist pulpit. Most recently, he served as the interim minister in Jackson,

where he now lives.

As interim minister, Naylor will serve the Emerson Church in Troy until the end of June.

An interim minister is called to lead the church during a time of transition, while the professional leadership and search committee continues its work to hire a permanent minister. A permanent minister is expected to be called for fall 1997.

Unitarian Universalism is a creedless religion with Jewish and Christian roots and a long history of promoting tolerance and social justice.

There are 1,000 UU congregations in the U.S. and Canada, with 200,000 members. The denomination has experienced steady growth in membership for the past 15 years.

For more information about

Unitarian Universalism, call Geoff Shawson of the Emerson Church at (810) 548-6126, or the UUA headquarters in Boston, Deborah Weiner or Julie Parker Amery, at (617) 742-2100.

Emerson Church office hours are Monday, 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., and Friday, 9:30 a.m. to noon. Naylor is in his study at the church on Thursday.

Federation's resource line extends helping hand, information

It's one of Oakland County's best-kept secrets.

It's the Federation Resource Line, a Jewish information and referral service.

And it's open to everyone who needs a referral to or information about an agency, resource or service.

Created in 1985 by the Bloomfield Hills-based Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit, the

program fields about 4,100 inquiries a year.

Based at the Jimmy Prentiss Morris Jewish Community Center in Oak Park, the Federation Resource Line can connect callers to resources for services

for the elderly, respite care, singles dating services, relocation, volunteer opportunities and information about the Jewish community, among hundreds of

other topics. Available to everyone regardless of faith, the resource line refers callers to agencies and services both in the Jewish and general communities.

It also maintains a database of services for people with disabilities available throughout metro Detroit.

A Text Telephone (810) 967-0460 links people with hearing

impairments to a variety of services to meet their needs. The Text Telephone is available by appointment.

The service is staffed by volunteers trained to keep inquiries confidential. Hours are Monday to Friday, 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Carol Kaczander is Federation Resource Line director. Got a question? Call the Federation Resource Line, (810) 967-HELP.

Carols from page B11

on WUFN-AM, WUGN-AM and WEWN, Mother Angelica's international radio station.

"We got a note from one of our groups that said our CD has already saved one mom and one baby," said Penni, who hails from Livonia. "So if we don't do anything else, I feel it was already worth it."

Through Trinity Productions, the LaButes also plan to publish books of poetry, prayers and short stories to raise additional funding for human life causes.

"We have a strong desire to

see the will of God and his Good News reach the hearts of more people," added Larry.

"Christmas Around the World" cassette tapes and CD's can be purchased at most Christian bookstores, or by calling 1-800-574-0015.

VISA and Mastercard is accepted.

To order by mail, send \$12 for each cassette and \$15 for each CD, along with \$2.50 for postage and handling for the first unit and 50 cents for each additional unit to: Trinity Productions, P.O. Box 7488, Bloom-

field Hills, MI 48302-7488.

The "Christmas Around the World" concert at St. Andrew Church will be televised at 7

Stamps from page B11

latkes or other foods fried in oil. The dreidel, a four-sided spinning top, is usually played for small stakes like candy, chocolate coins, nuts or loose change. Gift-giving is a more recent addition to the holiday.

"The major meaning of Hanukkah, to me, is that it's a

time every year when we gather in our homes and synagogues to celebrate dedication... the dedication of Judaism, and the dedication to making society better," said Syron. "What Hanukkah really is about is the right to be different. That's what the Hebrews fought for."

Now in their own building, the opportunities for Holy Redeemer's community involvement and outreach are expanding. Offered in December are weekly Advent Services (Wednesday evenings), Youth activities, weekly children's Sunday School at 9 a.m., followed by Sunday Eucharist at 10 a.m. with special Christmas services planned. For details on Advent services Christmas services, call (810) 852-4081.

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Redeemer from page B11

Indiana.

Led by Fick, the work of remodeling and refurbishing the interior has become a labor of love for its new occupants, the family of Holy Redeemer. Hailing from many metro-Detroit communities, the congregation has contributed varied talents and countless manhours, tearing out old walls, old paneling, old carpeting, ceiling tiles, rewiring, dry-wall, painting, etc. These efforts have turned this clapboard church into a beautiful

and welcoming sanctuary, with pristine walls, burgundy carpeting, altar, stain glass windows, exhibiting an enthusiasm and love for God and His people that is tangible, Fick said.

The Charismatic Episcopal Church (CEC) is a fairly new communion, not related to the Episcopal Church U.S.A., but birthed from the vision of evangelical Christian leaders and congregations desiring to restore rich historical worship to their churches. It has grown around

the world at a phenomenal rate since its inception in 1992. The CEC has attracted many because its churches combine biblical preaching and personal relationship with Christ, weekly Eucharist, liturgy, and a rich variety of traditional and contemporary music and praise. Many searching for a more conservative and historical church, with emphasis on a living relationship with Jesus Christ, and rich community life, have found what they seek in the CEC and,

locally, at Holy Redeemer.

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