

Cranbrook from page B10

by Franklin resident Barbara Dierich of First Baptist of Birmingham.

The leader roles will be played by Moring, Purvis and Farmington Hills resident Phillip Cartwright of First United Methodist of Birmingham.

"These mystics were saints," said Bagley, a 10-year member of CWU. "They really gave up everything and went into poverty to go into service for the Lord."

Church Women United is an international movement of Christian women of various denominations who come together to express their spirituality. The Birmingham unit was organized in 1937 by leading women of five churches in the city.

Affiliations have grown to include congregations in Bloomfield Hills, Farmington Hills, Franklin, Pontiac, Royal Oak, Southfield, Troy, Waterford and West Bloomfield. Major events are held at a different Oakland County church each time.

"I think it's wonderful that this group of women gets together from all different faiths, and I love to visit all the other churches," said Helen Booth of Bloomfield Hills, a key

delegate from Christ Church Cranbrook.

CWU celebrates three global events each year, beginning with World Day of Prayer in March. This year's theme centers on the seeds of faith that were planted by the early women of the church and continue to flourish today.

Women who successfully cultivated the symbolic Amaranth seeds they received on May Fellowship Day are asked to bring their plants to the World Community Day celebration.

Free will offerings support the national commitments of Church Women United to advance the social and economic power of women. Individually, women are asked to bring a "House Plant" selling for \$10 each will aid the homeless and those at risk of homelessness in Detroit and provide them with affordable housing.

The cost for the World Community Day luncheon is \$5. Reservations must be made by Nov. 3, by calling (248) 644-6210. Christ Church Cranbrook, at Woodward and Lone Pine, is handicap accessible. Child care will be provided upon request. Please bring a lunch for your child.

Christian conducts ecumenical choir in Birmingham

By RENA FULKA
SPECIAL WRITER

Vocalists from 25 church choirs will pay tribute to the Christian hymns of John Leavitt when the famed composer travels to Oakland County to assemble and direct an ecumenical choir festival on Saturday, Nov. 1.

The concert, in the sanctuary of First United Methodist Church in Birmingham, will culminate a daylong seminar of training by the master musician himself.

Under Leavitt's direction, the 100-voice choir comprised of seminar participants will sing 10 musical selections in pop, calypso, spirituals and 20th century common practice. Doris

Hall of Beverly Hills will accompany the group on piano and organ. Leavitt will also play several piano arrangements and share with the audience his musical experiences.

The one-hour program begins at 7:30 p.m. and is expected to draw a crowd of 250 to the church at 1689 W. Maple. A reception with the Kansas City arranger/composer follows in the Fellowship Hall, where punch and cookies will be served.

"We've always thought it was a wonderful experience to meet the person who writes the music we sing on Sunday mornings," said Chris Hall of Beverly Hills. "We have the facility to do it and the desire to make it

part of our Christian experience."

The annual program featuring renowned Christian composers was begun by Hall in Royal Oak in 1982. Four years later, Hall brought the program to Birmingham when he assumed his role as music director at First United Methodist Church. Through the years, seminar participants have honed their skills with artists like John Ness Beck, William Dawson, Eric Freudenman and Gilbert Martin. The program also offers choir members the opportunity to be part of a larger picture.

"People from smaller churches don't have the chance to sing in a big group," said Hall. "They

really enjoy it. They get a lot out of it as singers."

This year's program merges adult choir members from 25 congregations of varying denominations from as far as Saginaw, Flint, East Lansing and Tipp City, Ohio. Among the participating churches are Cross of Christ Lutheran in Bloomfield Hills, Calvary Evangelical Lutheran Church in Clarkston, Orchard United Methodist in Farmington Hills and Southfield Presbyterian in Southfield.

Tickets for the Choir Festival are \$5 for adults and \$2 for students. Children are free. For information, call the music office at (248) 646-1200.

Saints from page B10

cides with Reformation Day on Oct. 31, which commemorates the day in 1517 when Martin Luther presented his 95 Theses of change to the church. Luther's actions led to the establishment of the Protestant denominations.

The 6 p.m. worship service will be held on Nov. 1, at Holy Spirit Lutheran Church, 4800 Orchard Lake Road, and led by five clerics and five lay members representing the respective congregations.

Concelebrating clerics include the Rev. Murray Blackadar of Church of Our Savior Presbyterian in West Bloomfield, Alan Castillas of Sylvan Lake Lutheran in Sylvan Lake, Bruce Quatman of Holy Spirit Lutheran, David Robertson of Orchard Lake Community, Presbyterian

in Orchard Lake, and Kevin Warner of Episcopal Church of the Advent in Orchard Lake.

Though union with the Episcopal body failed by six votes in the church-wide assembly, an agreement toward full communion has been made at the local level.

"Because the Episcopalians were part of our conversations, we wanted to include them," explained Robertson.

A community choir formed from the five congregations will sing common hymns like, "For All the Saints."

The one-hour service, which is expected to draw 100 individuals, also features a hand bell choir and "sermonettes" by each minister.

All participants will celebrate Holy Communion together.

"We celebrate that all of us are saints by the redemption of Jesus Christ," said Quatman, when discussing Lutheran tradition. "As believers, we also recognize that we are saints in our relationship with God."

In Bloomfield Hills, members of Christ Church Cranbrook will observe All Souls Day on Nov. 2, by praying for parishioners who have died during the past year. "There's a lot of legend about Halloween, All Saints Day and All Souls Day," said the Rev. Edward Mullins, rector.

"It seems that trick and treating was a pageant from a group of people called 'Celts' of facing the darkest that life has to offer, and discovering that it can be overcome."

The Celtic New Year's Eve on

Oct. 31, was celebrated as the day the ancestral souls revisited the earth. The pagan festival fell on All Hallows Eve, the night before Christians recognized the "Hallows" or Holy Ones.

The Christian observance of All Saints Day was quite different from the celebration of their pagan neighbors.

"It was a day to honor those saints, known and unknown, whose lives were notable and exemplary," said Mullins.

Then on November 2, another celebration was planned, All Souls Day...a time to remember not just the saints but also everyone else — those billions of ordinary folk like us who have known, loved and served God."

Parenting class in Troy

Glen Oaks Alliance Church, 5700 Rochester Road, Troy, is holding classes on "Growing Kids God's Way."

The program is designed to equip parents with children ages 15 months to preteen to apply biblical principles in

raising responsible children with strong moral character. The class will meet once a week beginning in Nov.

The day and time is yet to be determined.

For information and registration, call (810) 731-4661.

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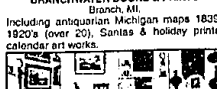
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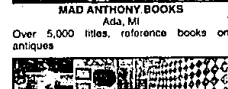
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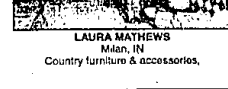
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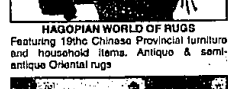
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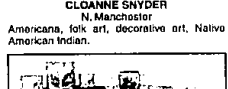
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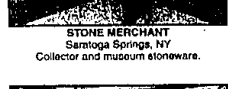
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