

Planning the future: Church finance director Fred Wilkinson (left) and the Rev. Jon Reusch hold a model of the new sanctuary of Cross of Christ Lutheran Church in Bloomfield Hills. The groundbreaking ceremony is scheduled for Dec. 14.

Bloomfield church builds new sanctuary

Their dream was to build a prominent sanctuary on the corner of Telegraph and Lone Pine roads as a declaration of their love for God to the thousands who traverse the busy highway each day.

Now, more than three decades after acquiring property just two miles south of their former meeting place at the old Tuscorora School members of Cross of Christ Lutheran Church will begin to realize their dream.

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On Dec. 14, following a half-hour worship celebration at 3 p.m. in the original 180-seat sanctuary, church members and guests will process outdoors for the official groundbreaking of a 12,800-square-foot sanctuary that will be built to accommodate 450. The celebration will conclude with a catered reception in the Light Center, the gymnasium dedicated in 1996 in the Light, a former pastor of the 22-year-old congregation. The 23,000-square-foot Light Center was constructed as Phase I of the Bloomfield Township congregation's master plan for the future.

"We've met our goal with the Light Center to be a community outreach program as well as serving the congregation," said commercial real

Livenia Chamber of Commerce BirminghamBloomfield Chamber of Commerce

estate developer Donn Ulmer of Bloomfield Hills, building committee chairman. "W believe this is a natural evo

committee chairman. "We believe this is a natural evolution of a growing church We do need the worship space and our hope is that the congregation will grow and the growth will be accommodated in the new church."

The new sanctuary was designed by world-renowned architect Gunnar Birkerts, formerly of Birmingham, who recently merged with Southfield-based DiClemente and Siegel Engineering, Inc. The red brick structure representing Phase II of the plan will be highlighted by a cross mounted atop one of four prominent columns. The estimated \$3.8-million project is expected to reach completion within 15 months.

Plans are also in the works to construct a classroom connector to join the two buildings. Once the project is complete, the original worship space will be converted into a 120-seat chapel with two conference rooms. Phase III of the project will include additional classrooms, offices and a multipurpose room.

Recent growth at the thriv-

a multipurpose room.

Recent growth at the thriv-Recent growth at the thriv-ing church prompted the ini-tiation two years ago of a cap-ital drive dubbed, "Empower-ing the Future - Now!" The 620-member congregation

Please see CROSS, B10

BELIEFS Values

Temple trucks surplus to needy

BY RENA FULKA SPECIAL WRITER

A large semi truck carrying A large semi truck currying brand new clothes, shoes, baby items, bedding, 10,000 pounds of flour and non-perishable food for the needy is just about to complete its second annual trek from Denver to metropolitan Detroit, coming to rest at a 14,000-square-foot warehouse in Livenia.

14,000-square-foot warehouse in Livenia.

Beginning at 8 a.m. on Dec.14. Temple Beth El congregants and other volunteers will have two days to unload, sort, display and repack the merchandise for pick up by 50 legitimate soup kitchens, shelters and missions located throughout the tri-county area. The non-profit organizations will be responsible for distributing the goods to the less fortunate during the holiday season.

Last year we impacted approximately 35,000 to 40,000 people, said loss Gerenraich of Farmington Hills, the temples social action chairwoman. We gave them a warmer winter, a better year.

From the beginning, Winter-

From the beginning, Winter Coat Drive has been a mis-nomer for the Oakland County temple's holiday outreach pro-gram, which offers much more than a collection of gently used

than a collection of gently used coats.

Through Rabbi Daniel Syme's longtime friendship with Ranya Kelly, more commonly known as 'The Shoe Lady,' the Bloom-field Township congregation now plays host to a distribution effort that requires hundreds of pairs of hands at work during two nine-hour shifts in the

warehouse.

"Volunteers are clamoring to do it again," said Gerenraich, who is chairing the event for the second year. This is huge. It's overwhelmingly wonderful."

Other members of the 1,600-family congregation playing key roles in the coat drive are event co-chairwomen Karen Lowen and Carol Plisner, both of Farmington Hills, who staffed the distribution center with volunteers. Fayclare Blau of Bloomfield Hills and Shelly Glass of Farmington Hills contacted recipient agencies and missions. Marshall Loewenstein of Bloomfield Hills arranged the truck pick up and delivery from Denver. Additional coats were collected by members of Cong. Beth Abroham Hillel Moses in West Bloomfield.

Since 1986. The Shoe Lady

bers of Cong Both Abraham Hillel Moses in West Bloomfield.

Since 1986, The Shoe Lady has overseen the distribution of \$2 million worth of goods throughout the country and abroad. She acquired her nickname after beginning her crusade in Denver with a fight to save 500 pairs of unsold shoes she discovered in a merchant's dumpster. Kelly's continued desire to clothe and feed the unfortunate during the holidays has grown into a full time, year round commitment.

The winter coat drive activities begin on Friday, Dec. 12, when Danny Siegel speaks during the 8 p.m. Sabbath services in Temple Both El's Helen L. DeRoy Sanctuary at 7400 Telegraph Road. Siegel is a renowned author, poet and

Shoe lady: Rayna Kelly shows off a coat hauled from Denver to metropolitan Detroit. Members of Temple Beth El will help disribute the goods to area soup See SURPLUS, Blo kitchens, shelters and missions

CTOR

Troy rabbi elected to CCAR board

He began his four-day retreat in upstate New York with study, the common denominator among the 16 clergy that comprise the Central Conference of American Rabbis.

Once knowledge had been shared and acquaintances made, Rabbi Arnie Sleutelberg took his seat to conduct business as one of the youngest members of the diverse, decision-making executive board. "It was really incredible," said Sleutelberg, who heads

-http://www.floarconnection.com

Troy-based Cong. Shir Tikvah.

"It provided an opportunity for us to share our strengths and to get to know one another in the process."

The New York-based CCAR is the North American Rabbinical organization of Reform rabbis, whose 1.900 members minister in every capacity from ehaplainey and mission work to congregational life. Among the resources provided to members are counselling services, peer support, workshops, placement services, seminars and scholarly publications.

"Our purpose is to support

should be support of the mem-bership."

The CCAR's upcoming quar-

The CCAR's upcoming quarterly meeting in Indreh is being scheduled in London in conjunction with the first World Conference of Reform Rabbis.

"Our status within the land of Israel is constantly threatened by ultra conservatives, so we are constantly fighting to retain our rights in a pluralistic nation to practice our faith, said Sleutelberg. "Organizing all the Reform rabbis of the world will be part of our agenda

Please see RABBI, B11



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