

BELIEFS Values

Summer classes teach about religion

By RENA FULKA
SPECIAL WRITER

A bustling Antiochian marketplace circa 49 A.D. will spring to life this summer in West Bloomfield when 120 youngsters step back to the time of the apostles to visit a small reproduction of the city where St. Paul began his ministry.

Dressed in the apparel of the era, the children wander the marketplace encountering Roman soldiers, beggars, tax collectors and storytellers as they learn about the teachings of the newly risen Christ. A visit to the specialty shops can mean learning a new trade from apprentices of the brickmaker, metalmith, potter, tentmaker, sculptor or weaver.

"Our Antioch 49 A.D. theme centers around the shops, people and culture of the marketplace in Antioch, Syria," explained Dorothy Maman, co-coordinator of the annual Vacation Bible School program. "We experience this city, the launching point and home base of Paul's missionary journeys, by visiting the marketplace and temple as new Christians of the day."

The program is being hosted by West Bloomfield United Methodist Church in cooperation with neighboring Holy Spirit Lutheran and Prince of Peace Roman Catholic churches. For the past 20 years, the three churches have joined talents and resources to provide an ecumenical experience for children, who represent as many as a dozen area congregations.

"Kids learn about the shared history of the early Christian church and their shared beliefs about Jesus," said Maman. "The kids are happy to come. They learn of Bible times and Jesus in a fun, active environment. They enjoy the interactive, hands-on approach."

Week-long Vacation Bible School programs can be found during the summer months in a myriad of churches throughout Oakland County. Whether simply or elaborately done, most programs are structured to bring

A few of the programs ...

■ **Lutheran Church of the Redeemer**, 1800 W. Maple Road, Birmingham, will host "SonLight Island - Where the Sun Always Shines," from 9 a.m. to noon, June 22 through 26. The theme focuses on Jesus' love for the children. Staffed by 100 volunteers, the program draws 325 children of various faiths from preschool through grade 5. A treasure hunt and an off-site field trip are planned for students in grades 4 and 5. A moonwalk, recreational games and supervised races are featured for the younger crowd. School kits for Guatemalan children will be assembled as a charity project with school supplies donated by Vacation Bible Schoolers. To register, call Kitty Sweitzer at (248) 644-4010.

■ **St. Andrew Roman Catholic Church**, 1400 Inglewood, Rochester, is hosting, "SonLight Island - Living in the Warmth of God's Love," from 9:30 a.m. to noon, June 22 through 26. Set to a tropical theme, the emphasis is on the book of 1 Corinthians. The biblical adventure is facilitated by 40 volunteers and enrolls 200 children from preschool through grade 5. A parent program culminates the week-long activities. To register, call Dorothy at (248) 653-6401.

■ **West Bloomfield United Methodist Church**, 4100 Walnut Lake Road, West Bloomfield, is hosting "Antioch 49 A.D." in cooperation with neighboring Holy Spirit Lutheran Church and Prince of Peace Roman Catholic Church, from 9 a.m. to noon, August 3 through 7. Children learn about the birth of the Christian church in an unforgettable Bible time adventure. The program enrolls 120 children, ages 4 to 10, and operates with the help of 45 volunteers and 30 middle school apprentices. To register, call (248) 851-2330.

■ **First Baptist Church of Troy**, 2601 John R., Troy, is holding its Neighborhood Bible Time from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., July 27 through 31. Through evangelistic Bible lessons and missionary stories, the program points souls to Christ while teaching how a Christian should live. Daily rallies led by an evangelist provide the opportunity for songs, games and activities. The program enrolls 800 students from age 4 to eighth grade and is supervised by a staff of 200 volunteers. Bus transportation is available for all students. Ribbons and plaques are presented during the Friday night awards program. To register, call (248) 689-4555.

■ **West Bloomfield United Methodist Church**, 4100 Walnut Lake Road, West Bloomfield, is hosting "Antioch 49 A.D." in cooperation with neighboring Holy Spirit Lutheran Church and Prince of Peace Roman Catholic Church, from 9 a.m. to noon, August 3 through 7. Children learn about the birth of the Christian church in an unforgettable Bible time adventure. The program enrolls 120 children, ages 4 to 10, and operates with the help of 45 volunteers and 30 middle school apprentices. To register, call (248) 851-2330.

make it kid-sized and fun, but we're dead serious about the children learning about their Lord."

Pastor Steve Allen said the Neighborhood Bible Time at First Baptist Church of Troy has a definite impact on the 800 children attending the church's 15-hour program.

"In the five days they learn what the plan of salvation is and they know that when they die, they're going to go to heaven," said Allen, the church's minister

■ "Kids go home and teach their folks. It's a great way to open the door for a family to come into the church and be a part of our family."

Kitty Sweitzer
Lutheran Church of the Redeemer

of music. "There's a lot of excitement and enthusiasm. And we teach them patriotism during the week as well."

Parents see the value of the summer Christian education programs from a variety of perspectives. While some are quick to volunteer as facilitators, others stop in during the week to begin their day with the child-gifted devotions.

"We realize that some parents see it as free day care for the morning, but others see it as a real opportunity for God to work in their child," said Allen. "If God can work in their hearts, God can work in their characters and behaviors as well."

Very few church-centered summer education programs would be successful without the help of countless volunteers, ranging in age from teens to senior citizens, who devote their time to bond with children through Christ. Some volunteers even take a week's vacation from their jobs to experience the joy of teaching the children in a fun-filled setting.

"You find that when you work with children in a faith situation, your own faith develops, too," said Maureen Schreffler, early childhood coordinator at St. Andrew Roman Catholic Church in Rochester. "You can learn a lot from the children."

"The benefit is far greater than anyone could ever think it could be," added Sweitzer. "And kids go home and teach their folks. It's a great way to open the door for a family to come into the church and be a part of our family."

Friend left children
the best legacy of all

REV. RONALD P. BYARS

A year ago, as I write, my friend dies of pancreatic cancer. He and I were the same age. We had been acquainted in western Michigan when we were both in the early years of our ministry, our paths diverged, but we more or less kept in touch with each other over the years, then, quite by surprise, we both found ourselves in the metro Detroit area again.

My friend was intelligent, conscientious and talented. In spite of these traits, I suspect that he often felt he was disappointed in himself. For some ministers, it's hard to take successes seriously, while very easy to blame oneself for every failure. And there are lots of failures.

My friend was not old when he died, and I feel sure that he had established goals that he had not met. He had a hard time thinking of his ministry as successful.

I think he was successful. He has three adult children who go to church. Now, you may wonder, why would a minister's children always grow up to go to church. Not so. Just as many lay people are disappointed to discover that their own children don't keep the faith in which they were raised, so are many ministers.

Furthermore, I suspect that a good many ministers' kids develop a measure of resentment toward the church, which has consumed so much of their ministerial parent's time and energy. Recently, I became a grandparent. That caused me to reflect on the years when my wife and I were raising our children. When a child is born, it seems as though an enormous length of time stretches out from infancy to adulthood. I can't go back. The childhood is all over.

If I could go back, knowing what I know now, I hope I would do things differently. I hope I would be less self-absorbed, less driven, less inclined to postpone things and more present in the moment. I hope that I would take my childbearing more seriously, not leaving it to chance, or relying too much on society to help me out.

I think I would not presume that my children could learn my values by osmosis. I would be more deliberate in sharing with them my deepest commitments. And then, of course, they would still grow up to be their own persons. What children become can never be entirely in our control - thank God!

On my desk is a clipping, several years old now, it reports some surprising - and even embarrassing - statistics. It says that if your parents worshipped with you while you were growing up, chances are 60 percent that you will worship regularly as an adult. If only your mother worshipped regularly with you, chances are only 30 percent that you will worship regularly as an adult. If only your father worshipped regularly, chances are 70 percent that you will go to church regularly.

That's embarrassing, because first it may seem silly. Why should fathers have so much more influence over this part of a child's life than mothers do? Still the data doesn't what ought to be - it simply records the facts.

Apparently, if children don't see their fathers committed to a spiritual life, they find it easy not to take such things seriously. It's easy for boys, especially, to conclude that faith is a feminine affair. This only one area of life in which fathers play a more important role than simply being partners in procreation.

My hat is off to my friend, who was eminently successful in leaving his children the best legacy of all.

The Rev. Ronald Byars is pastor at the First Presbyterian Church in Birmingham.

INTERNET ADDRESS DIRECTORY

Find these sites on the World Wide Web - Brought to you by the services of O&E On-Line!

To get your business On-Line, call 734-953-2038.



O&E On-Line

ACCOUNTING
Kessler & Associates P.C. - <http://www.kesslerpc.com>
ADVERTISING/PROMOTIONAL PRODUCTS
Monograms Plus - <http://www.monogramsplus.com>
ADHD HELP
ADHD (Attention Deficit) - <http://www.adhdoutreach.com>
ANNOUNCEMENTS
Legal Notices - <http://www.legalnotices.com>
ANTIQUES & INTERIORS
Watch Hill Antiques & Interiors - <http://www.watchhillantiques.com>
APPEAL
Hold Up Suspenders Co. - <http://www.suspenders.com>
ART AND ANTIQUES
Hag Galleries - <http://rochester-hills.com/hagg>
ART GALLERIES
The Print Gallery - <http://www.everythingart.com>
ART MUSEUMS
The Detroit Institute of Arts - <http://www.dia.org>
ASPHALT/CONCRETE PAVING
Ajax Paving Industries - <http://www.ajaxpaving.com>
ASTROLOGY/METAPHYSICS
The Turning Point - <http://www.psychpoint.com>
ASSOCIATIONS
ASMA - Detroit - <http://www.asma-detroit.com>
Building Industry Association - <http://www.buildings.org>
of Southeastern Michigan - <http://www.southeastern.org>
Naval Airship Association - <http://www.naas.org>
Society of Automotive Engineers-Detroit - <http://www.sae-detroit.com>
Suburban Newspapers - <http://www.suburban-news.org>
Suspenders Wearers of America - <http://www.suspenders.com>
ATTORNEYS
Thompson & Thompson P.C. - <http://www.thompsonlaw.com>
Thompson, Chayot & Weiner - <http://www.thompson-law.com>
AUDIO VISUAL SERVICES
AVS Audio Visual - <http://www.avsaudio.com>
AUTOMOTIVE
Huntingford - <http://www.huntingford.com>
John Rogin Buick-Isuzu-Suzuki - <http://www.johnrogin.com>
Ramchargers Performance Centers - <http://www.ramchargers.com>
Universal Bearing Co. - <http://www.unibearing.com>
AUTOMOTIVE MANUFACTURERS
REPRESENTATIVES
Marka Mgmt. Services - <http://www.markamgt.com>
AUTO RACING
Miami Dragway - <http://www.miamidragway.com>
BAKING/COOKING
"Lily" Mac-Chelsea Miking Company - <http://www.lylmac.com>
BICYCLES
Wahul Bicycle Company - <http://rochester-hills.com/wahul>
BOOKKEEPING PRODUCTS
BIG E-2 Bookkeeping Co. - <http://www.ogelz.com>
BOOKS
Apostrophe Communications - <http://www.apostrophe.com>
BUSINESS NEWS
Insider Business Journal - <http://www.insiderbiz.com>
CERAMIC TILES
Stewart Specialty Tiles - <http://www.specialtytiles.com>
CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE
Livonia Chamber of Commerce - <http://www.livonia.org>

Birmingham/Bloomfield Chamber of Commerce - <http://www.bbbc.com>
Redford Chamber of Commerce - <http://redfordchamber.org>
CHILDREN'S SERVICES
St. Vincent & Sarah Fisher Center - <http://www.stvincent.org>
CLASSIFIED ADS
Advertiser & Electronic Newspapers - <http://www.advertiser.com>
COMMERCIAL PRINTING
ColorTech Graphics - <http://colortechgraphics.com>
COMMUNITIES
City of Birmingham - <http://cityofbirmingham.org>
City of Livonia - <http://www.livonia.org>
COMMUNITY NEWS
Observer & Eccentric Newspapers - <http://www.observer.com>
COMMUNITY SERVICE
Deverly Hills Police - <http://www.deverlyhills.com>
Sanctuary - <http://www.sanctuary.com>
Wayne Community Living Services - <http://www.wcls.org>
COMPUTER
Logix, Inc. - <http://www.logix-usa.com>
HARDWARE/PROGRAMMING/SOFTWARE SUPPORT
Applied Automation Technologies - <http://www.aapp-edges.com>
BVS Software - <http://www.bvs-software.com>
Mighty Systems Inc. - <http://www.mightysystems.com>
COMPUTER PRODUCT REVIEWS
CyberNews and Reviews - <http://www.cybernews.com>
CONSTRUCTION
Frank Rensold Construction - <http://rochester-hills.com/frank>
EDUCATION
Fordson High School - <http://www.fordson.org>
Global Village Project - <http://www.globalvillage.com>
Oakland Schools - <http://www.oakland.k12.mi.us>
Rochester Middle School - <http://www.rochester-hills.com/rms>
Rochester Community Schools Foundation - <http://rochester-hills.com/rms>
The Webster School - <http://rochester-hills.com>
Hessman Elementary School - <http://www.hessman.org>
ELECTRICAL SUPPLY
Canlit Electric Supply - <http://www.canlit.com>
Progress Electric - <http://www.pe-co.com>
ELECTRONIC SERVICE AND REPAIR
ABL Electronic Service, Inc. - <http://www.abl.com>
EMPLOYEE LEASING COMPANY
Genesis Group - <http://www.genesisgroup.com>
EMPLOYMENT SERVICES
Employment Transition Services - <http://www.epswest.com>
ENVIRONMENT
Resource Recovery and Recycling - <http://www.rrec.com>
Authority of SW Oakland Co.
EXECUTIVE RECRUITERS
J. Emery & Associates - <http://www.jemeryassoc.com>
EYE CARE/LASER SURGERY
Greenberg Laser Eye Center - <http://www.greenbergeye.com>
FLOOR COVERING
The Floor Connection - <http://www.floorconnection.com>
FROZEN DESSERTS
Savory Softies - <http://www.savorysofties.com>
HAIR SALONS
Heads Up Win - <http://www.headsupwin.com>
HEALTH CARE
Family Health Care Center - <http://www.familyhealthcare.com>

HERBAL PRODUCTS
Nature's Better Way - <http://www.nature.com>
HOME ACCESSORIES
Laurel Home Accessories & Gifts - <http://laurelhome.com>
HOSPITALS
Bosford Health Care Consortium - <http://www.bosfordsystem.org>
St. Mary's Hospital - <http://www.stmaryshospital.org>
HYDRAULIC AND PNEUMATIC CYLINDERS
Hennells - <http://www.hennells.com>
HYPNOSIS
Full Potential Hypnosis Center - <http://www.fullpotentialhypnosis.com>
HYPNOSIS TRAINING CENTER
Infinity Institute - <http://www.infinityinst.com>
INDUSTRIAL FILTERS
Elxair Corporation - <http://www.elxair.com>
INSURANCE
Cadillac Underwriters - <http://www.cadillacunderwriters.com>
J. J. O'Donnell & Assoc., Inc. - <http://www.oconnellandassoc.com>
INTERACTIVE CD ROM PUBLISHING
Interactive Incorporated - <http://www.interactive-inc.com>
JEWELRY
Hag Jewelry - <http://rochester-hills.com/hagg>
LANDSCAPE DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION
Rollin Landscaping - <http://www.rollinlandscaping.com>
METROLOGY SERVICES
GKS Inspection - <http://www.gks3d.com>
MORTGAGE COMPANIES
Enterprise Mortgage - <http://www.getmoneyfast.com>
Mortgage Market - <http://www.mortgage.com>
Information Services - <http://www.interest.com>
Spectrum Mortgage - <http://www.spectrummortgage.com>
NOTARY SERVICES
Notary Service & Bonding Agency, Inc. - <http://www.notaryservice.com>
NURSING EDUCATION
Michigan League for Nursing - <http://www.mlnet.com>
ORIENTAL RUGS
Azara's Oriental Rugs - <http://www.azara.com>
PARKS & RECREATION
Huron-Clinton Metroparks - <http://www.metroparks.com>
PERSONAL GROWTH
Overcome's Maximized Living System - <http://www.overcome.com>
PLANNING AND TRAFFIC CONSULTANT
Buckler Arroyo Associates, Inc. - <http://www.bucklerarroyo.com>
POWER TRANSMISSION
Bearing Service, Inc. - <http://www.bearingservice.com>
PRIVATE INVESTIGATOR
Profile Central, Inc. - <http://www.profile-usa.com>
PUBLIC AND INVESTOR RELATIONS
Rein Norm & Associates, Inc. - <http://www.reinorm.com>
REAL ESTATE
REALNET - <http://www.realnet.com>
American Classic Realty - <http://www.americanclassicrealty.com>
Birmingham/Bloomfield/Rochester South Oakland Association of Realtors - <http://www.justlisted.com>
Chamberlain REALTORS - <http://www.chamberlainrealtors.com>
Cornwell & Company - <http://www.michiganhome.com/cornwell>
Dan Hay - <http://www.danhay.com>
Marcie Gies - <http://www.soaonline.com/gies.html>
Hall & Hunter Realtors - <http://www.soaonline.com/hallhunter>
Langard Realtors - <http://www.langard.com>

Max Brook, Inc. - <http://www.maxbrook.com>
Northern Michigan Realty - <http://www.nmrealty.com>
Claude Munz - <http://www.claudemunz.com>
Real Estate One - <http://www.realestateone.com>
Sellers First Choice - <http://www.sellersfirstchoice.com>
Bob Taylor - <http://www.bobtaylor.com>
Western Wayne Oakland County Association of REALTORS - <http://www.wwoacra.com>
REAL ESTATE APPRAISAL
BRSOAR Appraisers Committee - <http://www.brsoar.com>
REAL ESTATE - COMMERCIAL INVESTMENT
Property Services Group, Inc. - <http://www.property.com>
REAL ESTATE EDUCATION
Real Estate Alumni of Michigan - <http://www.realmichigan.org>
REAL ESTATE - HOME INSPECTION
American Spec Property & Environmental Inspections - <http://www.inspect.com>
REAL ESTATE - HOME WARRANTY
HMS Home Warranty - <http://www.hms.com>
REAL ESTATE SOFTWARE
Envision Real Estate Software - <http://www.envision-real.com>
RELOCATION
Conquest Corporation - <http://www.conquest-corp.com>
REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH
Midwest Fertility and Sex Selection Center - <http://www.mfsc.com>
RESTAURANTS
Steve's Backroom - <http://www.stevesbackroom.com>
RETIREMENT COMMUNITIES
American House - <http://www.american-house.com>
Presbyterian Villages of Michigan - <http://www.pvm.org>
SCALE MODELS
Fine Art Models - <http://www.fineartmodels.com>
SHOPPING
Birmingham Principal Shopping District - <http://www.birminghamshopping.com>
SUPPLIES
McClough Corporation - <http://www.mcclo.com>
SUPPLIES PRODUCTS
McClough Corporation - <http://www.mcclo.com>
SWIMMING POOL EQUIPMENT
Mechanical Energy Systems - <http://www.mes.com>
TOYS
Toy Wonders of the World - <http://www.toywonders.com>
TRAINING
High Performance Group - <http://www.hpg.com>
TRAINING AND CONFERENCE CENTER
Ips Corporate Training & Conference Center - <http://www.ips.com>
TRAVEL AGENCY
Cruse Selections, Inc. - <http://www.cruseselections.com>
UTILITIES
Detroit Edison - <http://www.detroitdison.com>
VIDEO/WEB SITE DEVELOPMENT
Net World Internet Marketing - <http://www.networld.com>
WELD GUN PRODUCTS
C.M. Smith Co. - <http://www.csmith.com>
WHOLISTIC WELLNESS
Rocks and Branches - <http://www.rocksandbranches.com>
WOMEN'S HEALTH
Asghar Ahsan, M.D. - <http://www.ahsan.com>
PMS Institute - <http://www.pmsinstitute.com>
WORSHIP
St. Michael Lutheran Church - <http://www.stmichaelslutheran.org>