Faith is not seasonal



REV. TIMOTHY no vacation from being a Christian! The

rector of the seminary college we attended while preparing for the priesthood used to remind us with a similar message as we left school for the summer cach year. Whatever our religious persuasion is, I think there is a very basic lesson and message here. Our religious faith is not something that turns "on" or "of! with particular seasons or time of year. If religion is what is should be in our lives, it is not dependent on seasons or other changing realities. It is something that we live and practice wherever we are doing. Virtually every pastor can testify to the reality of the change in worship patterns during the summer months. Far fewer people find their way to church, synagogue or mosque. I want to note that I am very grateful to their hiligious commitments during the summer, as at any other time. This does not stop me, however, as a pastor, from being concerned about those who seem their religious practice aside for summer activity.

I realize that weekly worship in not the only barometer of faith commitment. I realize also that.

I realize that weekly worship is not the only barometer of faith commitment. I realize also that many people travel and attend church near their cottage or other place of summer enjoyment. This does not change the reality that many do not include worship in their vacation plans. Whether or not formal worship is part of your life during holiday periods, such as the summer, this reflection is to suggest that a conscious relationship with God needs to be. Prayer, a unique form of acknowledging our relationship with Almighty God, abould be part of the life of a person of faith every day. There are

At the end of the school year, when the hyboungsters of our. parish leave school and formal religious education for the summer holiday, and the school year holiday. It is a summer holiday, and the school year holiday. It is a summer holiday, and the school year holiday. It is a summer holiday, and the school year holiday. It is not some school year, the school year holiday holida

BELIEFS & Values

First Baptist ready for campers

By Band PERT TEMPLETON
FYECHLA WRITER

The staff at the First Baptist
Church of Troy has ordered 250
dozen cookies and 150 gallons of
Kool-Aid. Now they're just waiting for the children to arrive.

The church, located between
Maple and Big Beaver on John R
will host "Neighborhood Bible
Time" next week, Monday, July
27 through Friday, July 31.

The free program, marking it's
14th summer this year, is for all
area children from age 5 through
the eighth grade, regardless of
religious background or denomination.

"We've been doing this for a
number of years and its always
been open to non-members of the
church, especially children in the
local neighborhoods," Paula
Anderson, the pastor's assistant
said. said.

Transportation is provided both to and from the church for local participants in designated areas. Children attending will be picked up at the corner nearest their home by clearly identified

piezed up at the center identified buses.

The program will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. so participants will be dropped off at the same corner shortly after the end of the days crusade.

This year's program at First Baptiat is under the direction of associate pastor Steve Allen. Week long activities will include, dramalized stories, the "Booster Cheer," "Bible Time" baseball, refreshments, daily gifts and lots more.

It's not unusual for the church to host between 700-800 children throughout the week-long event.

"The children are welcome to come for one day or for all five,"

anderson said. "We usually have a lot more at the end of the week than in the beginning. That's because kids go home and tell their friends about it."

A "Bible Time" staff of more than 160 adult volunteers from the church will provide supervision for the children attending the program.

"Most of the kids are signed up before so we know how many

"Most of the kids are sinced up-before so we know how many where we are going to be picking up," Anderson said. "I think we end up with about eleven differ-ent bus routes."

ent bus routes."

Bibl: atories, singing songs, games and arts and crafts are enjoyed by the younger set. Older students have more religious-based games and a daily raily that includes the awarding of ribbons for reciting Bible versers.

es.
"This is presented in a class-

room setting and the children are divided up by age group," Anderson said.

Students enrolled in the free program are welcomed and encouraged to bring along friends throughout the week.

"The kids are pretty excited about this and just seem to enjoy being here and taking part," Anderson said. "And our goal here at the church is to promote God and show the children that they should honor God, their parents and their country."

The program will come to a close with a special awards presentation on Friday night, July 31.

Those interested in signing their children up for the program may call the church offices to register and arrange transporta-tion at (248) 689-4555.

COMMUNITY MESSENGER

Community Messenger features Community mossingly readures spiritual announcements from Oakland County religious instrutions, Write: Community Messenger, c/o Bellefs & Values Editor, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham, MI 48009, Our fax number is (248) 644-1314.

number is (248) 644.1314.

ROSHHODEH STUDY SESSION
ON SUNDAY, July 26 at 7 p.m.,
community educator Nehama
Glogower will lead an adult
study session in honor of the
new Jewish month of Av, entitied, "The Cost of Community
Strife: Replacing Hate with
Love." The session is part of a
monthly Rosh Hodesh study
series heated by Borders Books
& Music, 30955 Orchard Lake
Road, Farmington Hills and
sponsored by Bilu viella. There
is no charge, and reservations
are not required. For more information, call (249) 737-1931 or email cilulearn@aol.com.

■ VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL Farmington Hills Baptist Church invites children ages four through Junior High to

COMMUNITY

Vacation Bible School on Monday, July 21 through Friday,
July 31 from 9 to 11:30 a.m. The
theme is "Passport to the Holy
Land, Following Jesus Every
Day." Children will experience
what it was like to spend time in
real carpenter's shop or cook a
Bible-time meal, or trade for
itoms in Jerusalem's marketplace. In each Tour Stop the kids
will discover something marketplace. In each Tour Stop the kids
will discover something marketplace. In each Tour Stop the kids
will discover something marketplace. In each Tour Stop the kids
will discover something nearlest
Church is located at 25901 Middiebelt Road in Farmington
Hills. For further information
call (248) 831-0310.

■ MUSIC SERIES CONTINUES Nardin Park United Methodist church in Farmington Hills is hosting a nine-part summer music series entitled, "Wednes-days at Eight." Concerts will be presented each Wednesday at 8 presented earn veducious at opposition p.m. at the church located at 29887 W. Eight Mile Road, Gust west of Middlebelt) in Farmington Hills. Each program is one hour in length, casual in demeanor and free to the community. Next week's featured guests will be the Fiddlers Phil-harmonic on July 29. For more information call (248) 47d-8860.



EverBlest

EVERBLEST TOUR 1998

EVERBLEST TOUR 1998

EVERBLEST YOUR Choir is to perform at Antioch Lutheran

Church, corner of 13 Mile and

Farmington Ronds, Farming
ton Hills, on Sunday, July 26 at

7:30 p.m. Everblest, in their "In

His Presence" performance, is

presenting an inspiring selection

of songs and drama to audiences

in 11 cities.

The public is invited to attend.

There will be a free-will offering.

■ VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
"Space Mission Bible Camp" will
be the theme for Vacation Bible

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School at First Congregational Church of Rochester in August. All children who have completed grades K-6 are welcome to attend. The camp will be held on August 11-14 from 9 a.m. to moon. Registration fee, which includes a t-shirt and cassette, is \$10 for the first child in every family and \$7 for each additional child. Non-members are welcome. Call (248) 651-6225 to register.

E "ISRAELI HUMOR"
The Jowish Humor Series at Borders Bocks & Music in Farmington Hills will conclude with a look at "Israeli Humor" on Monday, August 3 from 10 to 11 a.m. in a presentation by Rabbi Aaron Bergman. The event will be the concluding session in an eight part study series tracing the history of Jowish humor and is sponsored by Eliu Eliu, New students are welcome to attend. Cost is \$7 (85 for members of sponsoring organizations.) No reservations are necessary. For more information call (248) 737-1931 or e-mail citulearn@aol.com. ID "ISRAELI HUMOR"

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