

Pastor from page B7

bearers to celebrate our heritage as pilgrim people. The unique service started with a life and drum corps.

Next innovation was his introduction of a whole loaf of bread broken at the Communion table, the pouring of wine into a chalice and the "passing of the peace" after the service.

The Maundy Thursday service became memorable and dramatic as the candles were gradually extinguished to symbolize the flight of the disciples and the suffering of our Lord, and the total darkness, a loud drum roll, and the Rev. Olsen loudly called out in Christ's own words, "My God, my God, why has thou forsaken me!" The congregation

then exited the Church in total silence.

In June of 1998 Dr. Olsen obtained his Doctor of Ministry Degree from Chicago Theological Seminary. His thesis was entitled, "Networking Community: A study of the Internet and its Potential for Ministry." He was the founder and director of Luminet, an interactive support tool on the Internet for clergy and other church leaders.

A search committee has been established to fill the pulpit with an Interim Minister until such a time as a permanent minister can be secured.

There was a formal coffee hour in the church parlor following the 10 a.m. service Sept. 13.

Byars from page B7

from their point of view.

Religions, after all, do not think of themselves as hobbies for people's Saturday or Sunday entertainment! Religious groups contrast the world as it is and as they believe God wants it to be. They think of themselves as being under obligation to seek the will of God, to

whom we belong entirely. The God who claims us is the God who "holds the whole world in his hands."

Whether I agree with Cardinal Maida in every particular or in none, he has the right to speak.

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

COMMUNITY MESSENGER

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

SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION Churches and synagogues within the Birmingham School District have announced plans for their first annual "Healthy Community Sabbath." The event will hold Sept. 18-27 to raise awareness of substance abuse prevention. Congregations of all faiths will be encouraged to address substance abuse/prevention in one or more worship services during this extended week, and to pray by name for those engaged in the "front-line" drug prevention: police, educators, and health professionals. Interfaith worship resources, information about drug and alcohol use, and local resources will be distributed to all congregations. A special fea-

ture of "Healthy Community Sabbath" will be distribution of "Families of Faith Conversation" - a step-by-step guide for families to discuss drug and alcohol abuse/prevention sometime that week. The interfaith effort grew out of "The Summit" conversation sponsored by the Birmingham Community Coalition, and is being designed to lend spiritual aid to congregations and families in their concerns over substance abuse issues. Deaths from heroin overdose this past year of three young adults who had been students at Birmingham high school have galvanized the community to respond to this serious community health problem in a united and urgent way. For more information contact Rev. Louise Westfall at First Presbyterian Church at (248) 644-2040 or Dr. Stephen Jones at First Baptist Church at (248) 644-0550.

SHIR TIYKVAH SERVICES Congregation Shir Tikvah, Troy's Reform Jewish congregation, will be celebrating the religious holi-

days of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. Rosh Hashanah services held at various times from Sunday, Sept. 20 through Tuesday, Sept. 22. Yom Kippur on Tuesday, Sept. 29 and Wednesday, Sept. 30. Services are open to the public but space is limited and tickets are required. Congregation Shir Tikvah is located at 3900 Northfield Parkway (south of Wattle between Crooks and Coolidge) in Troy. For further information, call the Temple Administrator at (248) 649-4418.

STUDY FOR THE HOLIDAYS Eilu v Eilu, the metro Detroit adult Jewish education partnership of the Detroit Conservative movement, is currently offering a community-wide series of adult study opportunities called "Eilu: A Time to Prepare" to help adult learners prepare emotionally and spiritually for the Days of Awe, which begin this year on Sunday night, September 20. Sponsors are Adat Shalom Synagogue, Congregations Beth Abraham, Hiller Moses, Beth Shalom, B'nai

Moshe, and Shaarey Zedek, Hiller Day School and Women's League for Conservative Judaism-Michigan Branch. All classes are free and open to interested adult learners regardless of affiliation, background, or previous Jewish study experience. Unless otherwise indicated, no reservations are required. New students are welcome to attend sessions of any series currently in progress. On Thursday, Sept. 17 at 10 a.m. "Keyword Hebrew for the High Holidays" with Ahuva Newman. Repeat session for those who prefer a daytime format. At Borders in downtown Birmingham. On Wednesday, Sept. 23 at 8 p.m., "Practical and Personal: Awakening the Spirit in Jewish Prayer." Concluding session in Rabbi Danny Nevin's study series at Adat Shalom 29901 Middlebelt Road, Farmington Hills. For more information or to be placed on the Eilu v Eilu Community Adult Jewish Learning Mailing List call (248) 737-1931.

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