

# 1st Presbyterian has a new pastor

Installation services will be held at 4 p.m. Sunday, March 12, at the First Presbyterian Church of Farmington for the Rev. Dr. Sue Ellis Melrose.

Melrose has been called to serve as the church's new pastor/head of staff effective this month.

Melrose and her husband, Paul, have moved to Farmington Hills from New Jersey. She received her master of divinity degree from Union Theological Seminary and her doctor of ministry from McCormick Theological Seminary.

An ordained minister for 27 years, she served as the pastor/head of staff at the First Presbyterian Church in Succasunna, N. J., for the last 18 years. Her husband, Paul, is an ordained United Methodist minister working with the Samaritan Counseling Center in Farmington Hills.

The couple has two children: Rebecca, an intern working in Boston while considering a grad-

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uate degree, and Jan, an undergraduate student at the University of Wisconsin.

Melrose will be working with the Rev. David Noble, associate pastor and director of music for the past 11 years at First Presbyterian Church. She will also be working with the remaining staff: Jo Morgan, director of the children's church school; Dobri Ramsey, the LOGOS coordinator; Mary Whitmore, organist; and Susan Coyne, church secretary.

The community is invited to welcome Melrose into the church. Worship services are at 8:45 and 11 a.m. each Sunday, with church school at 10 a.m. The church is at the northwest corner of 11 Mile and Farmington roads.



**New Pastor:** The Rev. Sue Melrose and her husband, Paul, have arrived.

## Artist club will host critique

John Krieger will lead a critique for the Farmington Artists Club at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, March 8, at the Farmington

Hills Library on 12 Mile Road.

Krieger is an accomplished artist who received his bachelor of fine arts degree in 1976 from the Center for Creative Studies, School of Art and Design.

His fine-art gallery showings and corporate collections are numerous. He was also affiliated with both the Ford Motor Co. and DaimlerChrysler design staff.

Anyone may attend.

## Parenting from page B1

time and effort?

The parenting courses dispense information that can translate into improving relationships in general — with bosses, co-workers, adult siblings. The "active parenting of teens" course will run Thursdays March 30 through May 11. Sheila Wade will facilitate. Cost is \$15 per person or \$20 per couple.

"Many times adult siblings still have issues," said Meloche, who teaches "Children: The Challenge" a 10-week course that lays the foundation for other courses. It is recommended to be taken first but is not a prerequisite for other parenting courses. One session just ended and another is scheduled for next fall. Parents can call FYA at 489-3434 and get on the mailing list.

### Best gift

"This is the best gift parents can give their kids," she added. "Many times now there isn't that extended family support network — grandma and grandpa — nearby. Parents in the classes can identify with each other, become their own support network. Often they stay in touch after the class ends."

The facilitators stress that class discussion is kept private. And if some parents feel more comfortable just listening, that's fine, too.

"Facilitators are regular people, real moms and dads," said

Stutle. "They're not paid professionals who know everything. They come from all walks of life."

Once a parent has completed a class, they can take it over as many times as they like for no additional charge.

"Issues change: dating, driving, homework," said Meloche.

The basis for much of the class work is to give children the opportunity to make good decisions for themselves. Stutle stresses that even young children can offer solutions to their problems.

"We have one session on problem-solving," she said. "Sometimes kids come up with good solutions adults wouldn't think of."

When her sons were young they fought repeatedly over possession of the same toys.

"They came up with their own solution: a safety zone under their dining room chairs could save three toys for the whole day. It worked for them. For a long time, I'd walk by and see toys under their chairs."

Chores, vacation plans, allowance, curfews and homework are all issues that can be worked out through family meetings, she said. The classes offer many tips and ideas. Videos are often used to show less helpful, versus more helpful, ways of approaching situations.

To register or for more information, call Farmington Youth Assistance at 489-3434.

## Garden from page B1

"It gives the students a feeling of someone caring, that they come in and help them enjoy projects. It makes them feel important and gives them outside contact. They like to talk to people and tell them things as well as doing hands-on projects."

The garden therapy program has been running for 38 years and Gordon has participated for 25 years. Thirteen area schools, involving about 125 students, currently participate. For the last 10 years, Gordon has been going to Visions Unlimited, a center where trainable developmentally disabled students range in age from 18 to 25. Other schools that have benefited from the unique brand of nature therapy include Eagle, Forest, Kenbrook, Warner and the St. Vincent & Sarah Fisher Center.

And what do the students get out of it?

"For them, it's a break from

their regular routine. Teachers appreciate it. I have 13 students, most boys, and they enjoy it. It's amazing how they do the project and want to give it to someone. After awhile, you don't think of them as handicapped," Gordon explains.

Special education teacher Emma Foster says about the program: "I love it. The volunteers are so concerned about our students, they truly, truly care. The program gives the community a chance to see our special population ... and allows them to see we learn, we have feelings and we communicate just like everyone else."

Foster explains that the students derive a good measure of pride and personal satisfaction from doing the "well thought-out" projects.

To accommodate the students' abilities, projects must be simple and easy to manipulate. Though not all Hill and Dale Garden

Club members work in the classroom, all are involved in helping to plan and gather materials for projects. Each month, the 60 members cut and prepare everything needed for the projects in advance and put the items in bags for volunteers to use.

"We collect many materials from home such as recyclable items," Gordon adds, "and rely on fund-raisers in order to buy other materials. We try to keep things as natural as we can."

Both Gordon and Gundie say the garden therapy program gives them "a lot of satisfaction and love from the students, they appreciate it so much. There are so many rewards to doing it ... I would really miss going in."

Is there a reason for the very obvious success of the garden therapy program? Marge Gordon's recipe: "Everyone needs some sort of volunteer work to feel good about themselves."

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