

SERVANT CHURCH OF ST.

ALEXANDER
Celebration Mass for the 40th Anniversary of the parish will be at 10 a.m. Sunday, June 24 with Rev. Jim Wright officiating. Strawberry social immediately following. Open to current and former members of the parish. St. Alexander's is on Shiawassee behind Botsford Hospital.

JAYCEE PRAYER BREAKFAST

The Farmington Area Jaycees present the annual leadership prayer breakfast at 7:30 a.m. Thursday, Aug. 23. Nominations are now being accepted for 2001 Volunteer of the Year. Submit by June 30 to: Farmington Area Jaycees, Attn: George Buskirk, P.O. Box 35, Farmington MI 48332 or e-mail to: gbuskirk@yahoo.com

HARVEST MINISTRIES CHURCH

Harvest Ministries Church

will sponsor Welcome Home, a presentation at 7 p.m. July 4 at the Farmington Civic Theatre. The program will honor veterans with a powerful patriotic musical that celebrates our country's heritage and honors veterans. Admission \$1 at the door.

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN

St. John Lutheran summer schedule: traditional services will be Sunday mornings at 8:15 and 11:15. Praise Alive, a new contemporary worship service, will be offered at 9:45 a.m. Sunday, July 8 and 22. August 12 and 28. St. John is at 23225 Gill. Call 474-0584.

Church summer day camp is planned 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday-Friday, July 16-20. Children who've completed kindergarten to fifth grade may enroll. The camp theme is "Jesus Is... Son of God, Healer, Teacher, Savior,

Beliefs

Feature children's Bible study, music, arts and crafts, games, snacks and recreation. Cost is \$25 per child, \$60 maximum per family. Bring bag lunch and drink daily. To register, call 474-0584.

ADAT SHALOM

Adat Shalom Synagogue is at 29901 Middlebelt in Farmington Hills. Phone 861-5100. Clergy: Daniel Novins, rabbi, Herbert Yaskowitz, rabbi, Jay Strear, rabbi, Elfy Spectre, rabbi emeritus, Howard Glantz, cantor, and Larry Vieder, cantor emeritus.

Services: Friday at 6 p.m.; Saturday at 9 a.m. and 9 p.m.; weekdays at 7:30 a.m. and 6 p.m. and Sundays at 8:30 a.m.

Values

Bat Mitzvah of Emily Mitnick, daughter of Marsha and Ronald Mitnick and the Bar Mitzvah of Steven Jackson, son of Lisa and Larry Jackson.

JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER

Rabbi Nina Beth Cardin, director of Jewish life at the Jewish Community Center of Greater Baltimore, Md., will be the guest speaker at the JCC's annual meeting June 21.

The meeting will begin the agency's 75th anniversary celebration. For reservations, call 661-7600.

ORCHARD UNITED METHODIST

Vacation Bible school will be a Polar Expedition 9 a.m. to noon

Monday-Friday, July 23-27, at Orchard United, 30450 Farmington Road. The school is open for children age 4 to fourth grade. Advanced registration ends July 8. \$15 per child. For more information, call 626-3620.

UNITARIAN CHURCH OF FARMINGTON

Sunday, June 24, Universalist Unitarian Church of Farmington presents: "Nursing Home Reform" - a service developed by Nadene Mitcham will explore the issues surrounding nursing home reform. Be informed and prepared.

UUCF is a welcoming congregation. Only one service at 10 a.m. Summer recess begins, with no more services scheduled until the last week of August. 25301 Haledale (north of Grand River). Info: (248) 478-7272 or www.uufarmington.org

ANTIOCH LUTHERAN

Summer worship service hours for Antioch Lutheran Church at the corner of 13 Mile and Farmington roads: 9:30 a.m. Sundays with a contemporary service on the fourth Sunday of each month. A contemporary Praise Forth service will be held each Wednesday evening at 7:30 p.m. with Bible study prior to the service at 6:30 p.m. No service July 4. Call 628-7906.

Church summer day camp begins Monday June 25 to Friday June 29 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Theme "Jesus Is... Son, Healer, Teacher, Savior and Friend." Program includes children's Bible study, games, music, arts and crafts, snacks and recreation. Counselors from the Lutheran Outdoor and Retreat Ministry of Michigan will be conducting the program.

Honor and respect a two-way street between parent/child

In many Christian communities the need to parent children is often passed off to the paraphrase of one of the Ten Commandments. It is the one that begins "Honor Thy Father and Thy Mother."

The assumption that goes with the commonly held interpretation of this commandment is that children will automatically behave because there is a commandment to do so, and we expect that the church has taught that commandment to them. The commandment, like all of the Ten Commandments, has a piece of truth and wisdom for our time. There are two things that get in the way of children showing honor.

The first issue that often gets confused is the paraphrase of "Honor Thy Father and Thy Mother"; it is the statement that says, "I am the parent, that's why." There are times and places when that sentence may be

appropriate to the problem at hand. But so often the edict which comes down from the parent to a child comes as an isolated command which has no context, no set of relationships out of which either the parent or the child can make sense of it.

Covenant relationship

What I mean is that being a parent to a child and being a child to a parent involves a two-way relationship. The covenant relationship between our Creator God and those who are the children of God is a covenant or agreement in a relationship sometimes described in terms of a parent and child. You will be my people and I will be your God. My love for you will bind us together. Our children grow and mature and develop intellect, talent, skill and their own unique personality. This is the way Creation is intended. Children grow and mature with a

developing opinion and view of the world. Their experience of what is at hand will be different from their parents' experience simply because they are a different person.

No two persons have the exact same view or experience. Honor comes to the parent, and conversely to the child, where love and respect exist in that covenant relationship. The sense of honor may be expressed differently but it comes about because the child is convinced of the parent's love for him/her. The parent knows that the child behaves in the many ways they do, takes chances, and even sometimes pushes the envelope, because they know that they are safe with the parents, they can try things out, and the parents will behave in a way that while loving the child may not always agree with the child or the child's point of view. This last sentence brings us to our second

concern.

Honoring each other bears in mind that the parent/child relationship is one that in some ways is unequal. Parents are older; they have more developed brains and intellect. As adults they have more expressions of emotion. They have more experience. Children are learning how to think. They are learning how to form opinions and thoughts.

Expressing emotions

They are learning how to feel OK about points of view which may be different from parents, teachers, religious leaders. They are learning how to express emotions. They have limited life experience because of the fewer number of years that they have been alive. Parents do themselves and their children an injustice, a hardship, when they expect their children to behave like adults. Sometimes a parent

will enunciate an opinion in some fashion which assumes a level of intelligence or experience which a child cannot and will not at that point in his/her life have. Often children are expected to behave or think in ways that are really adult ways. The parent has erroneously assumed that one word from them and the child will do what they say. Conversations, thoughts, discipline, must be age appropriate. Parents have to be students of growth and development to know what a child is capable of undertaking, comprehending, and what level of response they can and will give to a parent.

The parent who shapes his/her interventions to the age and experience of the child already is showing that he/she is taking the time necessary to understand the child, and having the care and love to respect the child's abilities and not yet

learned skills.

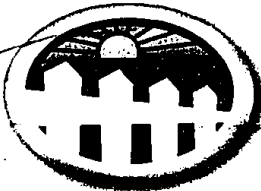
When a parent shows a child these things he is not only honoring the child but also teaching the child how to honor the parent.

Dr. Paul J. Melrose is a Staff Therapist at the Samaritan Counseling Center of Southeast Michigan. He can be reached at 248-474-4701 or at www.metanoia.org/paulmelrose.

YOUR FAITH



Paul Melrose



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