

Negro Minister Heads Congregation at Farmington's Trinity Church

In January, 1963, the Vestry of the Trinity Episcopal Church of Farmington Township voted to make Joseph A. Pelham its Rector. Pelham is the first Negro minister to serve in the Farmington area. He is a pleasant broad shouldered man, built to stand pressure. The vestry has not been as great as might have been expected.

That it has not been, is a credit to the maturity and goodwill of the citizens of Farmington. It is also a credit to Pelham's eminent qualities as a clergyman.

He was born in Flint 34 years ago. He graduated from the University of Michigan in 1952, with an A. B. Degree in Philosophy. Then he attended the Episcopal Theological School, of Cambridge, Mass., graduating cum laude, in 1955. In 1957, he attended Yale University's School of Theological Studies.

He was ordained an Episcopal Priest in 1956.

After serving as an assistant minister in Saginaw and Detroit, he became Director of Christian Social Relations for the Diocese of Michigan. He served in that capacity from 1958 until he came to Farmington in 1963.

He came when the community was somewhat on edge over the race problem. The civil rights movement was then at its height, and the Farmington Human Relations Committee had just been formed here.

The appearance of a civil rights group, and a Negro Minister at the same time, left some Farmingtonians with the impression that integration was being imposed on them by a powerful outside group.

In reality, the Human Relations Committee was an indigenous group—with no outside connections. And Joseph Pelham's appointment was the decision of Trinity Episcopal Church alone.

Since Trinity Episcopal is a self-supporting parish, it has the right to choose its own minister. The choice is made by the Church's vestry; in Trinity Episcopal's case the vestry consists of nine members.

A general procedure is for the Church to notify the Bishop of its need for a minister. He may or may not suggest some names, which may or may not act on. In this case, Bishop Richard S. Emrich sent down the names of 14 Ministers, including that of Joseph A. Pelham.

In his role as Director of Social Relations, Pelham had spoken in most of the churches of the Diocese. He obviously made a good impression at Trinity Episcopal.

Trinity's vestry pared the list of 14 down to four, on the basis of their biographies. Then they interviewed the four. Pelham was the second one they talked with. The rest of the story is remarkably pleasant and uneventful history.

Pelham received a lot of letters when he accepted the position. But only one of these letters was negative. The size of the congregation has remained

the same, and there have been very few changes in its makeup. And Joseph Pelham has made many close friendships within it.

The Trinity Episcopal Church has always regarded religion as concerned with the whole of life. The membership would actually be disappointed if their Minister did not attempt to relate Christianity to the affairs of the secular world. Happily, this feeling coincided with Joseph Pelham's own approach

to religion. And, within the Farmington community at large, his sermons have won him a growing reputation for good sense.

Pelham lives on 12 Mile Rd., in Wood Creek Farms subdivision of Farmington. He enjoys reading, but has little time for it. He is deeply involved in the social activities of his Church.

In addition, he is very active in a number of religious organizations: Member of the Board

of Trustees of the Episcopal Student Foundation; Member of the Division of Christian Life and Work, Michigan Council of Churches; Member of Special Advisory Committee on Youth Alcohol Problems of the Livonia Youth Commission; Chairman of the South Oakland Conference on Religion and Race; and Member of the Executive Council of the Episcopal Diocese of Mich.



MEMBERS OF THE Trinity Episcopal Church of Farmington, and their Minister, discuss the affairs of their Church. From left: John Irwin, teacher at Redford; Donald Brann, Vice President of the Detroit Partidition Co.; Joseph Pelham, the Minister; John Sumnerlee, a student; and his wife, Karen, a teacher.

United Appeal for Aid Being Made in Churches

America's three major religious faiths during the Thanksgiving season are calling on their more than 100,000,000 members to support the Fall United Appeal for Religious Overseas Aid, each through his own faith.

The Fall emphasis of the Tri-Faith effort includes the Protestant "Share Our Substance" appeal to help finance free distribution of food from America's agricultural abundance to the hungry abroad; the Catholic "Biblical Thanksgiving Clothing Collection" which seeks millions of pounds of clothing and other relief materials for the needy overseas; and the "United Jewish Appeal" which asks aid for recent refugees and others in acute need abroad.

Carrying the bulk of America's voluntary overseas relief to victims of war, famine and other disasters, the three faiths distribute hundreds of millions of pounds of food, clothing and medicine to the hungry, homeless and destitute in virtually every free country in the world.

In fighting poverty, disease, hunger and homelessness at the individual level, the programs of the religious overseas aid agencies make a vital contribution to peace, strengthening the bonds of spiritual brotherhood between Americans and their neighbors abroad.

Programs such as those supported by the three faiths in their Fall religious Overseas aid appeals have, according to President Johnson in an address to Congress (Sept. 21, '64):

... proved to be one of our most effective resources in international development programs—to help the people and the countries of the free world help themselves to economic and social progress."

'Industrial Harvest' at Holy Cross Church Is Thanksgiving Theme

Since 1789, Americans across the nation have celebrated Thanksgiving Day as the traditional time when their forefathers gave thanks for the blessings and abundance of their new-found land.

At that time, 95% of all Americans worked in agriculture, and the remaining 5% constituted the industrial work force. Over the years, the predominantly agricultural society has been transformed to our present day industrial community.

To illustrate this change, Reverend William Moldwin, pastor of Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Livonia, will depict "the fruits of the industrial harvest" for his congregation in his Thanksgiving Day sermon.

A display showing some of the products made in Livonia will be located in the narthex of the Church. The industrial harvest motif exhibit is being furnished by General Motors plants in Livonia and northwest Detroit.

Thanksgiving Day Services at Holy Cross Lutheran Church will be held on Wednesday evening, November 25, at 8 p.m. and Thursday morning, November 26, at 10 a.m.

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Newburg Baptist To Have Music Program Thursday

The Newburg Baptist Church will hold its annual Thanksgiving Musical program Nov. 26 at 7 p.m. The program will be at the Church at 27055 Joy Road, Plymouth.

Participating will be the Holbrook quartet, the Barnes trio, Mr. Everett Peach, Mr. Charles Steele and talents from the Church membership.

Mr. Steele is the church music director and soloist. All are invited to join the Newburg Baptist Church in this annual event.

Family Services Planned for Advent at Rosedale Church

Rosedale Gardens Presbyterian Church, 9601 Hubbard, Livonia, begins the Advent season with a sacred music concert by the Dearborn Chamber Chorus Sunday, Nov. 28, at 5 p.m.

The concert is the first in a series of special "Candlelight Services" planned for Advent, and is designed for family attendance. The series is designed to enrich the preparation for Christmas, giving families an opportunity to emphasize the spiritual rather than material and commercial aspects of this season.

The lighting of the Advent Wreath will be featured at the services, and families are being encouraged to use this custom at home following the services to enrich and teach the story of the expectation felt for the coming of Christ.

Congregational carol singing will precede the concert by the Chorus, an acapella group of twenty voices directed by Tom Aquino. Livonia residents singing with the eight-year-old Chorus include Mrs. Harlan Pelthman, Mr. William Dunphy, and Mrs. David Harlan.

On Sunday, Dec. 6, at 5 p.m. the series will feature a "Service of Lessons and Carols" with all six choirs of the church participating.

The Livonia Women's Chorus will present a program of

Christmas music on Sunday, Dec. 13, at 5 p.m., as a part of the series. The Chorus director is Jacqueline Meyrants. Immediately following this concert, a fellowship supper will be served in the church's fellowship hall. At 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 20, the children of the church school will participate in a special service of worship designed not as a "professionally-produced program" but rather as a climactic experience in their Advent preparation.

SNAP JUDGMENT
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Churches Honor JFK Memory in Plymouth

The first anniversary of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy was solemnly observed in the churches of Plymouth Sunday.

Father Francis Byrne urged the congregation of Our Lady of Good Counsel to remember President Kennedy in their prayers.

"May his soul rest in peace," prayed Rev. Dave Davey, at St. John's Episcopal Church. "And may light, perpetual, shine upon him."

Hugh White, Minister at the First Methodist Church, said: "One of the new frontiers is an understanding of the human spirit. And evidently we do not understand the motivation of the human spirit because of these things that lurk near the surface and cause these unbelievable things to happen."

Dr. Williams urged the congregation of the First Baptist Church to pray for "God's comfort for the sorrowing Kennedy family."

At the First United Presbyterian Church, Rev. Henry Welch prayed "that we may hold him in our memory and in our heart."

Rev. Edward Castner, also at the First United Presbyterian Church, discussed "the context of tragedy. And remember, Christianity was born in the context of tragedy."

Power of Truth Slated for Talks

The Power of Truth over illusion will be a central theme at Christian Science churches this Sunday. The hypnotic nature of evil will also be described in a Bible Lesson on the subject: "Ancient and Modern Necromancy, alias Mesmerism and Hypnotism Discerned."

Featured will be the passage from Revelation 12: "And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world."

Related readings from the Christian Science textbook will be included.

It's so true—men never are too old to learn, but many are too young to realize it.

NOTICE
State Highway Commissioner John C. Mackie is calling a public hearing at 8:00 p.m. on December 1, 1964, in the gymnasium of the Lee At. Thurston School located at 26255 Schoolcraft Road in Redford Township.

The purpose of this meeting is to explain to interested citizens the proposed location for Interstate Highway 96 in Wayne County outside the city of Detroit and in Oakland County. It is planned and proposed that Interstate 96 will be constructed as a limited-access freeway with bridge separations at major crossroads and interchanges of designated points.

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