

Rabbi Feels Newspaper Misinterpreted His Views on Belief in God; Congregation Backs Him Completely

By ALLEN ROSENFELD

Rabbi Sherwin Wine, of the Birmingham Temple, whose unconventional approach to his religion has stirred considerable controversy within the Jewish community, and has aroused the intellectual curiosity of many non-Jews as well, feels that the recent newspaper article on him was misleading. His congregation of about 140 families, many of them from the Farmington area, is solidly behind him.

They agree with the Rabbi, that by categorizing him as an atheist, the headline distorted and oversimplified his beliefs. As he explained in the text of the article, Rabbi Wine regards himself as an "agnostic": "one who says to a person who speaks of God: 'I don't know what you mean and can't tell me whether your statement is true or false.'"

He contrasted this with an atheist, who says to a believer: "I know what you mean, but I think your statement is false."

Rabbi Wine expanded on these views, in a conversation with this reporter Friday:

"The word 'God,' as used by the ordinary man in the street, refers to a person up there, with whom you can converse. This kind of God I deny. If this is the kind of God you are referring to, then I am an atheist."

"If, however, you use the more sophisticated definitions of God—such as that he is a being, outside of space and time; or an impersonal first mover, outside the world; or a pervading purpose in the universe; or the ground of being; or something mysteriously big out there—then my answer is: yes, I believe they search the Scripture and confront the needs of men."

"In the setting of the percentage which we will use, it is one faith of many which really establish the percentage. We 'I don't know what you mean by that.'"

"The word 'God' is as useless word. This is so because 'It depends primarily on private definitions. A word, to have usefulness,



RABBI IN THE MIDDLE of a storm, Sherwin Wine has the overwhelming support of the Birmingham Temple. He is seen here, after his service on Friday Dec. 5, talking to members of his congregation, from left to right: Baylee Frankel, Rabbi Wine, Leon Mirbach, Mrs. Tillie Wine (his mother), Dr. Lean Berman, and Fran Berman.

must have a shared public meaning."

"I want to talk about love, or purpose, or forces, or the best in man. I can use other words and express myself more fully than if I used the word 'God.'"

Rabbi Wine is a humanist. He says he became a Rabbi, because he felt he would be able to do some good for people in that capacity. He says the primary role of his congregation is "to develop the best potential in man."

That the congregation is with him in the storm was clear at the Hanukkah Service Friday night. When the approximately 200 people in the Birmingham Masque Temple swarmed all over him on his sermon, and assuring him of their support.

In his sermon, the iconoclastic Rabbi broke with the traditional biblical story of

Hannukah. He pointed out that the Maccabees did not represent a majority of the population of Israel. And he took great pains to explain the Greek side of the controversy with the Maccabees.

The congregation obviously enjoyed this interpretation. As one of them, Irving Rotman of Plymouth Township, told me: "The role of the Rabbi has always been, not only, or even primarily, as a preacher of religion, but also as a teacher and scholar. He has a duty to his congregation to re-evaluate the traditions of the past, and to modify them in meeting the realistic needs of the present. The reforming of moral responsibility is a major function for our time."

Rabbi Wine has successfully challenged his congregation to participate actively in critical evaluation and synthesis. Even the presumption of God is open for discussion.

Reminder For the convenience of those wishing publication of church news The Observer wishes to remind you that the deadline for news items is 5 p.m. Friday for all notices. The address of our office is 30300 Five Mile Road, Livonia.

Called for under the Hebrew law. In other words, it is a common experience to discover Christian stewards who will be giving a portion which is equal or beyond the tithe. The difference is that this will be their own decision arising out of the Spirit's guidance. As they search need not get into arguments with each other about how much we are to give. We can never really settle the issue in such a way as to bring blessing to a man. It becomes a matter of argument. It probes into his own relationship with Christ.

"Giving is not usually a question of how much money people have, but normally it is a question of how much faith and love they have. The call to the Christian to give is a call to the kind of faith that dares to sacrifice; that dares to give something away because he has an abiding confidence in the importance of the Christian gospel."

"As we ask the question 'How much?' we are also led to wonder: 'How much?' We know we need in connection with money and with giving."

Rev. Estes Attends Conference The Rev. Thomas W. Estes, Minister at St. Paul United Presbyterian Church in Livonia, is currently attending a special Conference for Young Pastors in Turkey Run, Ind. He was invited to the conference by the Board of Christian Education in Philadelphia. Faculty from the Board will discuss Bible Study and the Minister as a Person among other topics at the Conference.

K of C Inducts New Members

The Knights of Columbus' All Saints Council No. 4872 of Taylor held a Third Degree ceremony on Sunday, Nov. 29 at the Monsignor Hunt Council Hall. The four candidates, Ellsworth LaFleur, Edward Haas, Daniel Sweeney and Nicholas Wells, began their day with Mass and Communion at Our Lady of Heaven Church.

The Mass was followed by a breakfast and festivities were Grand Knight, Anthony R. Laframboise and Six-Point Chairman Joseph R. Krupp.

B. H. Geiger, Knight-of-the-month was present for the banquet in the evening honoring the new members.

God's Care For Man Is Topic

God's perpetual care for man in all facets of his life will be the theme at Christian Science services this Sunday. The Bible Lesson is titled "God the Preserver of Man."

Golden Text: "The Lord is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower" (Ps. 18:2).

Related readings from "Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures" by Mary Baker Eddy include these lines: "We shall obey and adore in proportion as we apprehend the divine nature and love Him understandingly, warping no more over the corporeality, but rejoicing in the affluence of our God" (p. 140).

Church Discusses Christian Myth

A series of three sermons entitled "The Christian Myth" will be launched Sunday, Dec. 13, at the 10 a.m. service at the Universalist-Unitarian Church of Farmington by Minister Robert Miles Eddy.

The opening talk will be "The Fall," followed by "The Redeemer" on Dec. 20 and "Salvation" on Dec. 27.

Mr. Eddy said that in the series he would examine the whole world view on which Christianity's great plan of salvation is built, and look at the "Christmas" story in terms of that view.

He also plans, he said, to discuss whether this plan has changed or not today, since our world view has changed greatly.

Cornerstone Set At Christ Lutheran

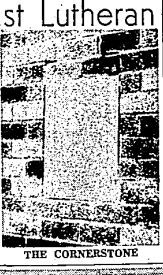
Members of the Christ Lutheran Church of Redford Township witnessed the placing of the cornerstone of the Church's new educational unit Nov. 29.

Mr. Alvin Koeppe, Chairman of the Building Committee, placed the stone with assistance from the building contractor, Mr. Karl Dembowski, President Pro-Tem of the Church Council, officiated at the Scripture Reading prior to placing the stone.

Pastor C. Beliefs said that the educational unit is the second building in the plan compound.

The unit, which will house the Sunday School and Religious Instruction classes, will consist of twenty classrooms providing space for 400 students.

Seventeen items were placed inside the cornerstone. These included a collector's item book let recounting the history of Detroit from beginning colonial days; a collection of coins minted during 1964; a John V. Kennedy Half Dollar; pictures of the ground breaking ceremony; and the Sunday School Primary Teaching materials in present use.



THE CORNERSTONE

New Minister At St. Paul's

The Rev. Donald Muench has joined the staff of St. Paul's United Presbyterian Church in Livonia. Formerly of Mt. Clemens, Rev. Muench is working on St. Paul's visitation program three days a week. He is currently in the process of relocation through the closing of two mission churches.

DEACON ELECTED Eldon Downing has been re-elected Deacon of the Memorial Church of Christ in Redford Township, Nov. 29.

You can lift your life...

Worship this week

ST. MARK'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

26701 Joy Road
Worship and Church School
9:00 & 11:30
Rev. Joy Edward Solt, Pastor
GR 2-2420

ST. ELIZABETH'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

26431 West Chicago Road
Rev. R. L. Marsh, Vicar
KE 7-1181
8 a.m. Holy Communion;
11 a.m. Morning Prayer
(Holy Communion, 1st Sunday)
11 a.m. Sunday School and Nursery
7 p.m. Evening Prayer and Youth Fellowship

ST. MARK'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

26701 Joy Road
Worship and Church School
9:00 & 11:30
Rev. Joy Edward Solt, Pastor
GR 2-2420

CLARENCVILLE METHODIST CHURCH

28912 Grand River
corner of Collingham
Two identical Memorial Services
8 and 11:15 a.m.
Sunday School—10:00 a.m.
Youth Group—7:30 p.m.
Evening Service—7:30 p.m.
CLWVY (Channel 9)
HEAR "Herald of Truth"
10:00 p.m. Sunday
WXYZ Radio (1270)
Free — Bible Course by Mail

MT. HOPE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Livonia, Michigan
Now Meeting at Newmont
Elementary School
Lodgepole Pine Ln. and Yale Ave.
Rev. Robert F. Simpson—Minister
of Music
Worship Service and Sunday School—10:30

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

14350 WORMER
Looking for a Friendly Church?
Rev. C. Beliefs
KE 4-8744
8:30 Worship
9:45 Sunday School
11:00 Worship

HOLY CROSS EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

30450 West 6 Mile Rd.
—Livonia—
SUNDAY SERVICES:
Worship, Church School, and Nursery
9:30 and 11:00
SATURDAY CONFIRMATION
9:30 and 11:00 a.m.
Pastor William Maldwin
GA 7-1414 425-4835

ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

25301 West 6 Mile Rd.
(Between Gray Ln. and Yale Ave.)
Rev. Arnold H. Johr, Pastor
Office 14447 Yale
Phone: 425-4519
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.
Worship Service: 10:45 a.m.

FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST

1100 West Ann Arbor Trail
10:30 a.m. Church and School
8:00 p.m. Wednesday Eve. Meeting
Reading Room
873 West Ann Arbor Trail
Livonia, Michigan

NEWBURG METHODIST

34500 Ann Arbor Trl at Levee
Church GA 2-2419 Ext. 425-3972
(Rev. Paul Greer)
425-3284
Worship Service—9:30 and 11
(Nursery Class)
Church School
9:30 Nursery through Adult
11:00 Nursery through Vin Grade

CHURCH OF THE SAVIOR

Reformed Church in America
Daniel Webster Elementary School
37855 Livonia
Church School — 9:30 A.M.
Divine Worship — 10:30 A.M.
Prayer Service — 7:00 P.M.
Rev. Luther Kärner, Pastor 427-4122

ST. ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

16360 Hubbard Rd.
Livonia, Michigan
8:00 A.M.—Holy Communion
9:00 A.M.—Morning Prayer
(Holy Communion, 2nd and 4th Sundays)
11:00 A.M.—Sunday School
Church School, all ages, 9 a.m. & 11 a.m.
The Rev. Joy P. Cauton—Ministers—The Rev. Douglas T. Smith
GA 1-0454 Church Office GA 1-0451 GA 5-0646

ST. MATTHEW'S CHURCH

Methodist Episcopal United Brethren
29475 SIX MILE ROAD (1 block west of Middlebelt)
Worship Services at 9:30 and 11:00 a.m.
Sunday School at 9:30 (Nursery through 4th Grade)
11:00 a.m. Kindergarten through 5th (12th Grades and Adults)
Rev. John Gardner, Jr., Pastor — Rev. James A. Longa
427-2586 Church Office 425-6258 421-7454

HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

39020 Five Mile
Just East of
Edine Road
Livonia, Michigan
Worship Service—9:45
Sunday School—11:00
Early 8:30—Late 11:00
Rev. W. Koepf, Pastor
Office Phone 464-0211

PILGRIM CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
36075 W. SEVEN MILE RD.
Livonia
Worship Service 10:30 a.m.
Church School 10:30 a.m.
James W. Schofer, Minister GR 6-2070

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL

15218 Farmington Rd. just South of 5 Mile Rd.
"Livonia's Oldest Lutheran Church"
Worship Service 9:30 a.m.
Sunday School and Bible Class 9:45 a.m.
Rev. Winifred M. Peters, Pastor 421-9023
Christian Day School, Grades K-8

ST. LUKE'S METHODIST CHURCH

5 Mile at Hogarty
Worship Service 11:00
Nursery and S. S. Classes
Rev. Sherman Richards
Pastor
Phone 453-9491
Residence Howard 76 W.

PRINCE OF PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

(Missouri Synod)
12 Mile at Farmington Rd.
474-0210
The Reverend
Carl E. Mehl, Pastor
Worship Service
8 & 10:30 a.m.
(Nursery Provided)
Sunday School and Bible Classes 9:15 a.m.

WEST POINT CHURCH OF CHRIST

2200 W. 7 Mile Road
Paul S. Knight, Pastor 424-2292
Worship Service 11:00 a.m.
Bible Study—8:30 p.m. Sunday
9 & 10:15 a.m.
"Repeat Ye, For the Kingdom of Heaven is at Hand"
N-415

GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH OF LIVONIA

24440 Lyndon 425-6315
Sunday School, 10 a.m. Morning
Worship, 11 a.m. Youth Meeting,
6 p.m. Evening Service, 7 p.m.
Midweek Services, 7 p.m.
REV. TROY B. HULL, Pastor

ST. PAUL'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

27475 Five Mile Road
GA 2-1470
"Everyone Welcome"
Rev. William F. Walbridge
Rev. Arnold DeZure
Rev. Thomas W. Egan
Services: 8:30-11:30

WESTLAND BAPTIST CHURCH

35375 Ann Arbor Trail
(Between Wayne and Newburg)
Reverend R. F. DeKorser, Pastor
Farmington 427-4719
Church Phone 425-5347
Sunday School 10 a.m.
Worship 11 a.m.
Sunday Evening at 7:00
Wednesday Worship 7:30 p.m.

WARD METHODIST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Worship Services
9 and 11:15 a.m. SUNDAY
BIBLE SCHOOL
9 and 10:15 a.m.
Pastor Dr. Scott A. Hess
5 Mile & Farmington Roads

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE RISEN CHRIST

Missouri Synod
41213 E. Ann Arbor Trail
Pastor David J. Stember
Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
Worship Service 10:30 a.m.

HAWTHORNE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Meeting at Herbert Hoover
School, Levee Road at Lafayette
Worship and Church School
10:00 a.m.
Rev. Carl A. Gundersen
422-1470 464-1354

EMMANUEL BAPTIST

American Baptist Convention
14540 Memorial Rd.
Welcomes to our Services
Worship Service 10:30 a.m.
Church School, 10:15 a.m.
Reverend WILLIAM E. NELSON
Pastor
Home phone LI 6-2560

NEWBURG BAPTIST CHURCH

37055 JOY ROAD
Between Wayne and Newburg Rd.
SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:45 a.m.
MORNING SERVICE 11:00 a.m.
EVENING SERVICE 7:30 p.m.
Nursery available at all services
Reverend Wardford
GA 7-1037 GA 5-0466

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL

(Missouri Synod)
30000 Five Mile Road
West of Middlebelt, GA 1-7249
Rev. Ronald C. Starnes,
Pastor
Sunday Services
8:30 and 10:15 a.m.
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Pastor School Pledge
Mr. Bernard J. Gierke 425-7249
The church of "The Lutheran Hour"
and "This Is The Life"

RIVERSIDE PARK CHURCH OF GOD

Plymouth & Newburgh Roads
Livonia, Mich.—464-0990
Rev. J. Clifford Thor, Pastor

UNITY

of West Suburbia
2025 Curtis Avenue
Between 5 & 7 Mile Road,
West of Middlebelt, Livonia
421-7176 44-2957 KE 5-0323
Affiliated with Unity School of
Christianity, Lee's Summit, Mo.

SUNDAY SERVICES

11 a.m.
Sunday School and
Nursery
DIANE SEAMAN
Ministry
Wed. Night Lecture—8 p.m.
Dr. Arthur L. Ligon, Speaker
Thurs. Lecture 10:15 a.m.
and 8 p.m.
Mildred Collins, Speaker
Thurs. Psycho-Spirituals
Discussion Group 7:30 p.m.
Open Mon. — Fri. 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Parkway Heights Free Methodist Church

23705 Plymouth, Just East of Telegraph
SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:45 a.m. WORSHIP 11:00 a.m.
TRAINING HOUR 10:15 a.m. EVENING SERVICE 7:30 p.m.
MID-WEEK SERVICE, Wednesday 7:30 p.m.
★ Supervised Nursery Service ★
John M. Baker, Pastor 533-0500

Universalist-Unitarian Church of Farmington

The Church of the Inquiring Mind
Warner at Thomas in Farmington
The Rev. Robert Miles Eddy
Church Service 10 a.m. Discussion Groups 11 a.m.
Church School 10 to 12
TOPIC
Dec. 13—"THE CHRISTIAN MYTH, THE FALL"
(Music Listening 11 a.m.)

ROSEDALE GARDENS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Hubbard at West Chicago
Worship and Sunday School 9 and 11
Richard C. Dunkeberger, D.D., Sr. Pastor
Arthur Baumeister, Jr., Associate Pastor
Garfield 2-0494

FIRST METHODIST CHURCH

of Farmington
2011 Grand River GR 4-4273
Worship Church School,
and Nursery
9:15 and 10:40 a.m.
Rev. Richard T. Markham
Rev. David L. Stone

LIVONIA BAPTIST CHURCH

Affiliated with
Southern Baptist Convention
33942 Schoolcraft, 2 S.W. E. of
Farmington Rd.—425-3719
WILLARD MARTIN, Pastor
GR 4-6068 Res. 8:45 a.m.
Early Worship Services, 8:45 a.m.
Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
Worship 10:30 a.m.
Baptist Training Union, 6:30 p.m.
Worship Hours — 7:45 p.m.

TRINITY CHURCH

BAPTIST
14800 Middlebelt just South of 5 Mile Road
9:30 a.m. — Morning Worship, 10:45 a.m. — Bible School,
6:00 p.m. — Family Vesper Hour, 7:15 p.m. — Youth Fellowship,
"Nursery at All Services."
Rev. Lyle M. Adams, Pastor Mr. Jerry Smith, Organist

WONDERLAND CENTER

GA 7-1600, Ext. 132
GRAND RIVER STORE
at Greenfield
VE 5-4200, Ext. 28

Stewardship Discussion Closes With 'How Much' Examination

As the closing article in its series on Stewardship, The Augsburg Lutheran Church in Redford Township presented the following thoughts for the congregation. Entitled "How Much" the selection is a reprint from the book "Stewards Appointed."

"One of the questions which consistently arises when stewards begin to think about giving their money away is to ask 'how much shall we give?' Sometimes this question is a very honest and searching one. Sometimes it is raised as a defense against too heavy a claim upon the available resources."

"There is a very understandable and helpful formula which is given to the Christian person as he searches the Scripture. In part he will learn this from the pages of the Old Testament, and in part he will learn it from the New Testament."

"The one standard which Scriptures does give to us which is consistent with the spirit of the gospel is found in Paul's letters to the Corinthians. The passage most often quoted is 1 Cor. 16:2—

"Give us as God has prospered." This means that God has given to each of His stewards the responsibility for deciding what part of his income shall be set aside for the special cause of the gospel and the work of the Christian Church.

"It is up to him to come to the decision as to whether the percentage should be 10 per cent, 12 per cent, 15 per cent, or whatever the proportion might be. Certainly this decision of the steward will be made in the light of his own intelligence and the prompting of the Holy Spirit in his own heart."

"There is no arbitrary proportion which is assigned to man because he belongs to the Christian Church. It is to be assumed that under ordinary circumstances our love for Christ will move us to a standard of giving that will be at least as high as that which was

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GA 7-1600, Ext. 132
GRAND RIVER STORE
at Greenfield
VE 5-4200, Ext. 28

Montgomery Ward

FOURTH CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST

24400 West 7 Mile Road, Detroit
A cordial invitation is extended to all attend Services and visit the Sunday School.

CHURCH SERVICES:
SUNDAY—11:00 a.m. SUNDAY SCHOOL—11:00 a.m.*
WEDNESDAY—8:00 p.m. (*Welcomes young people under 20 years of age.)
READING ROOM 535-2334

DAILY—10:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m., except Holidays.
WEDNESDAYS—10:00 a.m.-7 a.m.-7:45 p.m. and 9:00 p.m.-9:30 p.m.
SUNDAYS—2:30 p.m.-5:00 p.m.