

# Congregation Observes Lent In Members' Homes

Anniversary services in the homes of members are providing the people of Church of the Shepherd King, Birmingham, with a memorable Lenten observance. The congregation, whose chapel is located at West Maple and Middlebelt roads, is conducting 24 fellowship gatherings in the homes of members during the six weeks of Lent. The usual observance was announced by the Rev. Karl Boehmke, pastor of the church.

During its first Lenten season in 1957, Church of the Shepherd King having no permanent place of worship, traveled from home to home for devotions and Bible study. These neighborhood gatherings laid the foundation for the Parish Circle organization which has developed with the congregation across 10 years. Families joining the church are attached to neighborhood parish circles which meet regularly in homes for fellowship and service projects. Circles are expected to show special concern for their families in times of illness, death, weddings or household moving.

A LENTEN gathering begins with the setting up of an altar by the host family in their living or recreation room. Altar crosses and communion vessels are carried in from the preceding home. A tape recorder with hymns and responses recorded by the church choir provides the service music. The pastor leads in worship, while Vitar Thomas Schoenborn, student from Concordia Theological Seminary, St. Louis, Mo., preaches the sermons. Worshipers sit on folding chairs strategically placed in rooms from which the altar can be seen.

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# A Non-Fundamentalist Baptist

By ELIZABETH WISSMAN

A complete contemporary fills the pulpit at North Farmington Baptist Church on 13 Mile Road.

The Rev. Ralph C. Rideout carries some exception to the time-honored Baptist custom of baptism by immersion. He says, "We've practiced baptism. Now we have a tank up front in the church and proceed to baptize all the 12-year-olds. It's almost getting to be like confirmation."

So fundamentalist, the pastor has a study that includes an ash tray. And he speaks of his Baptist-minister grandfather, Dr. John Scott Pendleton, as doing "his greatest amount of thinking while he was at his desk playing solitaire."

Mr. Rideout's father was also a Baptist minister. He renounced his religion on his retirement. The elder Rideout was an Army chaplain and the local pastor was born at the Army's Walter Reed Hospital in Washington, D.C.

Mr. Rideout says he had two strikes against him. "I was an Army brat and a preacher's kid."

"THE MODERNNESS of his beliefs may be a reflection on the purity of his grandfather's beliefs before faith became something of a parlor trick."

Mr. Rideout combines current trends and events with Biblical references in his conversation, pivoting stress to each in perspective.

About his denomination, he says, "Baptists are not distinctive because of baptism by immersion. The church is distinctive because of its openness and individual growth — always tempered by the corporate body."

"There is more opportunity for this in the Baptist faith because of the freedom we've always possessed."

The pastor finds great contrast in his current church with his first pastorate in Boston's inner city. He served 4 1/2 years at Grand Baptist Church in Somerville, a city contiguous to Boston.

"FOR THE MOST part," he says, "the people there did not get the college education. When you dealt with a marital problem there, it was generally a crisis problem. Most problems were crises."

"And we always dealt with institutions — the jails, mental hospitals and so on."

"Here the personalities are different. The people here have the ability to cope up with the problems. True, there are many marital problems, but that's because of this kind of life where families just see each other on weekends."

"But man has always adapted to his environment. I believe the church can play its biggest role in suburban communities that provide the human community in which one can move in and out easily and still have a relationship in a setting where the commonness goes deep."

IN KEEPING with this approach, the pastor and his wife, Judy, have been gathering small groups together socially in their home. He has been doing Bible study, study of issues, or whatever presents itself.

Worship services are scheduled at the church at 10 a.m. Sundays, with Sunday school at 11 a.m., so that adults can be free for an hour of in-depth study of the meanings of worship.

Mr. Rideout received all of his education in the east. He attended Andover Newton Theological Seminary in Newton Center, Mass., and Boston School of Theology. He also has completed the academic work for his ministerial degree. He calls his academic background "highly ecumenical."

Andover is Congregational, Newton Baptist, and Boston School of Theology is Methodist.



THE REV. RALPH C. RIDEOUT

# Lutheran Pastors Soloists Chosen For Oratorio

Pastor Charles Fox, of St. John American Lutheran Church, and the pastors of four other ALC churches in the Wayne Conference are joining in an effort to dramatize the meaning of the Lenten season by dramatic presentation of some of the important characters connected with the passion of Jesus.

Dressed in costume to represent the character he is portraying, each pastor will speak to a different congregation each week.

This Wednesday evening, at 8 p.m., Pastor Robert Gordon, of St. Olaf Lutheran Church, Detroit, will be at St. John's and will be presenting a first person characterization of Peter.

His sermon is entitled "Peter, Profile of Doubt" and will be centered on the denial of Christ by Peter and the period following when his faith was strengthened and he became an important figure in the Christian faith.

Since the sermon will be given as a dramatic characterization in costume, the liturgical portion of the service will be conducted by a layman. The lay liturgist for this evening will be Paul Joseph, St. John American Lutheran Church, located at 32225 Gill Road. The service is open to the public.

Miss Marjorie Mowat is pleased with the progress of her orchestra and is putting in extra rehearsals with the group. Director Feucht urged all interested persons to circle the date of Friday, April 14, and attend the production for a beautiful and wonderful treat in the world of artistic sound.

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 Office GR. 4-6272

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 Worship Services, 9:30 a.m.  
 Sunday School 10:45 a.m.  
 Youth Training Hr. 5:45 p.m.  
 Evening Gospel Hr. 7:00 p.m.  
 Mid-Week Prayer Service  
 Thursday, 7:30 p.m.  
 Rev. Fred G. Ferris, Pastor  
 BR. 3-3275

**HIGHLAND PARK BAPTIST CHURCH**  
 28600 Southfield  
 Badon H. Brown, Pastor  
 SUNDAY  
 9:30 a.m. Worship Service  
 11:00 a.m. Sunday School  
 7:00 p.m. Worship Service & Sunday School  
 5:45 p.m. Youth Groups  
 7:00 p.m. Gospel Hour  
 WEDNESDAY  
 7:30 p.m. Prayer and Praise

**North Congregational Church**  
 Northwest Highway at Lahser Road  
 EL 6-1660 and 444-4276  
 Ministers: Dr. Ralph H. Reed  
 Rev. Joseph G. Gregory

11:00 A.M. MORNING SERVICE OF WORSHIP  
 11:00 A.M. CHURCH SCHOOL  
 Classes from Toddlers through Twelfth Grade

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**SALEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
 Oakland at Gd. River Farmington  
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 SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:00 A.M.  
 ADULT BIBLE STUDY (Nursery) 9:00 A.M.  
 WORSHIP SERVICE (Nursery) 10:15 A.M.  
 Pastorage GR 6-6487 Church Office GR 4-6506  
 Carl H. Schultz, Minister

**BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH**  
 21405 FARMINGTON ROAD  
 bet. Eight and Nine Mile  
 Sunday School 9:45 a.m.  
 Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.  
 Youth Groups 5:45 p.m.  
 Evening Service 7:00 p.m.  
 Wednesday Bible Study and Prayer Hour 7:30 p.m.  
 FRANK B. SMITH, Pastor  
 GR. 4-2844

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
 26165 Farmington Rd.  
 Worship, Church School and Nursery  
 9:30 a.m. & 11:05 a.m.  
 Robert A. Sawyer, Jr., Ass't. Minister  
 Church - GR. 4-6170

**CLARENCEVILLE METHODIST CHURCH**  
 20300 Middlebelt Rd.  
 Livonia, Michigan  
 9:00 a.m. Worship Service  
 10:15 a.m. Church School  
 11:15 a.m. Worship Service  
 6:30 p.m. Youth Groups  
 7:30 p.m. The Evening Service  
 Wednesday 7:30 p.m. Prayer Service  
 GR. 4-3563 ELSIE A. JOHNS, Minister GR. 4-6942

**The Lutheran Church of the INCARNATION**  
 30333 W. Ten Mile Rd.  
 Church School 9:45 a.m.  
 Worship Service 11:00 a.m.  
 Nursery Provided  
 Rev. Peter C. Larsen 476-3335 474-5318

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH**  
 Shawwassee at Farmington Rd.  
 Farmington, Mich.  
 MINISTER  
 Rev. Walter C. Ballagh  
 10 A.M. to 11:15 A.M. Morning Worship  
 11:15 A.M. to 12 Noon Bible School  
 5:45 P.M. 3 Youth Groups  
 7:00 P.M. Evening Worship  
 7:30 P.M. Wednesday Prayer Service  
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 Farmington Road between 12 and 14 Mile Roads  
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 Worship Service and Church School at 9:30 and 11:00 a.m.  
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**ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
 23225 Gill Road  
 WORSHIP SERVICES 8:30 11:00  
 Nursery - Both Services  
 SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:40 a.m.  
 Rev. Charles Fox, Pastor  
 GR. 4-0584

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FOR INFORMATION REGARDING THIS COLUMN CALL GR 4-6225

**NORTH FARMINGTON BAPTIST CHURCH**  
 23500 W. Thirteen Mile Road  
 (Just west of Orchard Lake Rd.)  
 Affiliated with The American Baptist Convention and the Metro. Detroit Council of Churches  
 February 19, 1967 "AN INDICEMENT THAT LASTS"  
 Worship Service 10:00 a.m. (Nursery)  
 Church School 11:10 a.m. (All Ages)

**First Methodist To Have Guest**

The Rev. Raleigh E. Sain will be the guest speaker at the Lenten service at First Methodist Church, Wednesday, Feb. 22 at 7:15 p.m.

Mr. Sain was pastor of the First Evangelical and United Brethren Church, Independence, O., from 1939 to 1953. He came to the Detroit Council of Churches in 1953, serving in various capacities through the years and is now the director of administration of the Metropolitan Council of Churches.

Prior to this devotional service, a potluck dinner will be served by the Mizpah Circle in the church dining room promptly at 6:30 p.m. Reservations may be made by calling Mrs. Clifford Meredith, 474-6592, or the church office, 474-6573, before Tuesday noon.

**Science Topic**

"Mind" is the title of this Sunday's Lesson-Sermon to be read in the Christian Science churches. The Golden Text is from Proverbs: "The Lord gives wisdom; out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding."

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