

# Farmington Churches

## Minister Meets Challenges



THE REV. GEORGE W. RAMSEY

By ELIZABETH WISSMAN

"We've had too much of beliefs and too little belief," the Rev. George W. Ramsey, minister of the First Presbyterian Church on Farmington Road, expressed this view in relation to changes taking place within churches today.

His own denomination is making a major change with the rewriting of the Westminster Confession, the first new Presbyterian creed in 320 years.

The old Confession does not relate the church to secular affairs. The new deals with issues such as civil rights and world peace.

Mr. Ramsey says, "The basis of our Confession is reconciliation. We're forced to understand how to live together. Various denominations are finding out that what really matters about faith is common to all of them."

Mr. Ramsey believes that the whole civil rights movement has had a great effect on the position of the church today.

"We are a Christian church," he says in reference to the Presbyterian Church, "and it is in Christ that we have the great example of this whole business of love."

"I think the main mission of the church is realized," he goes on, "when the Christian community can look into the eyes of every person, regardless of race, creed or status and see there the elements of love and growth."

Far from the stereotype of the minister, Mr. Ramsey places great emphasis on what he terms, "being myself."

As the leader of a large congregation (1040 members), he has assigned himself the difficult task of close involvement in these members' lives.

"To be involved in so many people's lives in such an intimate way is an awesome responsibility," he says.

"A minister is supposed to be able to do almost anything. The job description is overwhelming. One must be good with youth, a teacher, a counselor—you're present for birth, death, marriage in tragedy and crisis."

"A minister meets his people in their most meaningful moments of life."

"But," he adds, "one of the true joys of the ministry is to see people become aware of the Christian principle of love in their lives — to have it become a part of their lives."

Mr. Ramsey's own love of sports acts as something of a check and balance to his ministerial duties. His great joy is sailing and his dream is to someday sail around the world.

He laughs when he says, "I'll never be able to afford it, but how I'd love to do it."

His love of the active life may be a carry over from his youth when at 18 he enlisted in the Army Air Corps, flying 81 fighter missions with the 86th Fighter Group.

He was shot down in March, 1945, and taken by the retreating Germans until liberated by Patton's army.

Born in Wilmerding, Pa., he was a minister's son and has a brother who is a minister.

"The advantages of being a minister's son outweigh the disadvantages," he notes. "A community welcomes a minister's family like very few people are welcomed; you are immediately accepted."

For this reason he knows that his own children, Mark, 15; Jane, 13; and Kristin, 6, are "on show."

"We don't worry about it," he says. "We just stress their being themselves."

Mark was born three weeks before Mr. Ramsey graduated from Webster Theological Seminary in Pittsburgh. During his second seminary year he commuted 110 miles to serve a rural pastorate.

He was ordained in 1952, filled two pulpits in Waterloo, O., one in Clarksville, O., and served as a minister in Christian education at the First Presbyterian Church of Warren, O., before coming to Farmington in 1961.

The Farmington church was organized in 1854 as the only Presbyterian Church to be organized on the floor of the General Assembly, then held in Detroit. The church's charter members were all present at the assembly.

After meeting at Farmington High School for two years, the congregation held services in a barn near the present church which had been made into a chapel.

The present edifice was completed in September 1961 and may eventually become a fellowship hall when plans are complete.

Mr. Ramsey is assisted in the ministry of his congregation by the Rev. Robert N. Sawyer, a native of Monroe and graduate of Alma College and McCormick Theological Seminary, Chicago.

Mr. Sawyer works with junior high school members and conducts a year-long class for communicants, taking over preaching duties on the average of once a month.

### Trinity Church First Methodist To Confirm 15 Hear Dr. Parrish

Confirmation of 13 children and two adults will take place Sunday, March 12, at 7 p.m., at Trinity Episcopal Church, Farmington.

The Right Rev. George R. Selway, D.D., will perform the rite of confirmation. Mr. Selway is a native of Ohio and was graduated from Kenyon College and Huxley Theological Seminary.

He came to the Diocese of Michigan to serve as Rector of St. Paul's Church, Lansing, from St. Mark's Church in Toledo. While in the Diocese of Michigan he was a member of many departments and commissions and served for some years as president of the standing committee. From Lansing, Dr. Selway was called to be Dean of Trinity Cathedral in Phoenix, Ariz., a post he held until he became bishop of Northern Michigan on October 1, 1964.

As bishop of Northern Michigan his jurisdiction includes the Upper Peninsula, together with the islands lying to the east of the mainland. The cathedral of Northern Michigan, together with the bishop's office and residence are located in Menominee.

### OCC To Present Bishop Pike

Oakland Community College will present Bishop James A. Pike at 8 p.m. March 20 in Southfield High School auditorium, 10 Mile at Lahser Road. He will speak on the new morality.

Send ticket requests with stamped self-addressed envelope to Community Services Division, 2480 Opdyke Road, Bloomfield Hills, 48301. Admission is free.

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### New Group In Commerce Bld.

Members of the Farmington Board of Commerce are seeking to set up an industrial division to serve their special needs.

Forty-two representatives of industries in the city and township attended an exploratory meeting Wednesday night in the offices of the Thompson-Brown Co.

PURPOSE, according to a chamber spokesman, would be to help industrialists become better acquainted with each other and to provide a vehicle to express their views on local matters.

The growing number of industries locating in Farmington, especially along the free-ways and in the township industrial park, prompted the move.

If set up formally, the industrial division would be the second special division of the Board of Commerce. A retail division was established in 1965.

Another goal of chamber activities is to set up a professional division, too.

### School Looted

Farmington Police are investigating a robbery Monday night at Cloverdale School. Thieves broke a window on the east side of the building and took \$100 from the school safe.

Chief Robert Deadman says there are no leads on the identity of the burglars.

### BLUE RIBBON

Bullmastiff bitch, Spica, won a blue ribbon at her first showing last Sunday at Cobo Hall. She is owned by Edna H. Forsythe of 31512 Rocky Crest Dr.

### Concordia Choir To Mark St. Paul 75th Anniversary

This Sunday, March 12 at 3:30 p.m. the 70 voice Concordia College Choir of Ann Arbor, will present a sacred concert at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Eight Mile and Middlebelt.

This concert is the first in a series of special services being held during 1967 in commemoration of the 75th anniversary of St. Paul's Lutheran Church.

Featured selections by the choir will be the double chorus motet, "Sing Unto the Lord a New Song," by Heinrich Schuetz and "Wachet Auf Ruft Uns die Stimme," by Hugo Distler.

The four part program will include special music for brass instruments and organ.

The Concordia Choir is made up of students who are preparing for the various ministries of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.

The public may attend the concert. An offering will be gathered.

### Capuchin To Be Guest At St. Colman Church

A lenten mission will conclude this week at St. Colman Catholic Church, 32500 Middlebelt Road.

Rev. Robert J. Kilcoyne, pastor, said that Father Gordon Garske, O.F.M. Capuchin, would preach the mission. Father Gordon is a member of the Capuchin mission band of preachers who work out of St. Bonaventure Monastery, Detroit.

The mission concludes March 19.

"Invariably those who need the mission most, fail to come," Father Kilcoyne concluded.

"The word 'mission' means sent," Father Gordon explained. "I am coming to your parish at the invitation of your pastor. My purpose is not to convert you to the faith but to stir you up in the practice of your faith."

The Capuchin priest will preach at all of the Sunday Masses and a special mission service each evening.

### Southfield Pastor To Enact Herod Role

On Wednesday, March 15, at 8 p.m., St. John American Lutheran Church, 22225 Gull Road, will present the last speaker in the current series of "Profiles of the Passion."

Pastor Edward Brown of Peace Church, Southfield, will present, in costume, a dramatic presentation of Herod. His presentation will be entitled "Profile of Unbelief."

The lay liturgist for the evening will be Bob Williams. The community is invited.

It has been estimated that it takes about as much energy, although only half as much time, for a duck to produce a pair of antlers as it does for a doe to produce a fawn.



Very Rev. GORDON GARSKE

**SUNDAY, MARCH 12 - 7 P.M.**  
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Ministers:  
Dr. W. Leslie Williams  
David H. Stone  
Parish Visitation  
Mrs. Sidney Eva  
Parsonage GR. 4-7568  
Office GR. 4-6572

**JUDSON BAPTIST CHURCH**  
Meeting in  
EAST JR. HIGH SCHOOL  
25000 MIDDLEBELT ROAD  
Worship Services, 9:30 a.m.  
Sunday School 10:45 a.m.  
Youth Training Hr. 5:45 p.m.  
Evening School Hr. 7:00 p.m.  
Mid-Week Prayer Service  
Thursdays, 7:30 p.m.  
Rev. Fred G. Ferris, Pastor  
BR. 3-3275

**HIGHLAND PARK BAPTIST CHURCH**  
28800 Lahser  
Southfield  
Bedon H. Brown, Pastor  
SUNDAY  
9:30 a.m. Worship Service & Sunday School  
11:00 a.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

**TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
26886 LaMura Drive  
Farmington  
In Springfield Subdivision  
8:00 a.m. Holy Communion  
10:30 a.m. Family Worship Service  
Church School Facilities at Beechview School  
The Rev. Joseph A. Pelham  
Rector  
GR. 4-2860

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
26165 Farmington Rd.  
Farmington  
Worship, Church School and Nursery  
9:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.  
George W. Ramsey, Minister  
Robert N. Sawyer, Jr., Asst. Minister  
Church - GR. 4-4170

**SALEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
Oakland at Gd. River Farmington  
SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:00 A.M.  
ADULT BIBLE STUDY (Nursery) 9:00 A.M.  
WORSHIP SERVICE (Nursery) 10:15 A.M.  
Parsonage GR. 6-6487 Church Office GR. 4-6880  
Carl H. Schultz, Minister

**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. 4-3363 ELSIE A. JOHNS, Minister GR. 4-6393

**Orchard Methodist Church**  
30450 Farmington Road  
Farmington Road between 13 and 14 Mile Roads  
FRANK A. COZADD, Minister - GR. 6-0170  
Worship Service and Church School at 9:30 and 11:00 a.m.  
Nursery Provided Office - MA. 6-6820

**THE LUTHERAN CHURCH of the INCARNATION**  
30333 W. Ten Mile Rd.  
Farmington, Mich.  
Church School 9:45 a.m.  
Worship Service 11:00 a.m.  
Nursery Provided  
Rev. Peter C. Larson  
476-3325 474-5318

**ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
23225 Gull Road  
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Nursery - Both Services  
SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:40 a.m.  
Rev. Charles Fox, Pastor  
GR. 4-0584

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH**  
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11:15 A.M. to 12 Noon  
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5:45 P.M. Youth Groups  
7:00 P.M. Evening Worship  
7:30 P.M. Wednesday Prayer Service  
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