

Nardin Park Church Valued At \$1 Million

By ELIZABETH WISSMAN
Staff Writer

The \$1 million-plus edifice of Nardin Park Methodist Church on 11 Mile is the fourth building project its minister, the Rev. William Mercer, has undertaken.

He came to Nardin Park from Trinity Methodist in Highland Park where he steered a \$70,000 remodeling job. He spent 12 years at St. Andrew Methodist, going there when it was a mission church, and oversaw the building of two units at \$100,000 and \$250,000 each.

During his tenure at St. Andrew the church grew to 2,300 members, so the clergyman is accustomed to congregations as large as the 1,700 member Nardin Park parish.

WHEN THE CHURCH moved out here from Detroit three years ago, Mr. Mercer was assigned to it he says, "to hold the congregation together." It had been accused of raising a race issue when it sold its old church building to Ebenezer African Methodist Church.

The choice of Farmington for its present 20-acre site was made by the Detroit Council of Churches. When the move was made here, 1,300 of the member families remained with it. Four hundred new members have joined since the move, Sunday school membership has tripled to a total of 800.

To run this church corporation, Mr. Mercer has three assistants—the Rev. Roy Syme, associate; the Rev. Frank Benish, minister of visitation; and Dr. John Phelps, minister of music.

Each makes 15-20 parish calls a day and Mr. Mercer says another full time staff member is badly needed.

There are three choirs, a Boy Scout troop, youth groups for all ages, two bowling leagues, three adult Sunday school classes, a Methodist Men's group and a Women's Society of Christian Service.

AS HEAD of all this activity, Mr. Mercer comments, "If I couldn't pray, I'd go nuts."

Prayer relieves tensions for Mr. Mercer, but for sustained relief from parish problems, he travels the world. He and his wife sell tours and the two of them have covered cities from London to Leningrad.

His church study is filled with conversation pieces he has brought home from far-flung places. Here at home he relaxes by playing squash in the winter, golf in the summer and painting at oils at odd moments in between.

Born in Fresno, Calif., and brought up in the midwest, Mr. Mercer attended Ohio Wesleyan University and Drew Theological Seminary.

He didn't make up his mind to enter Christian service until his college days, and says he was a minister for six years before he had a "thorough-going religious experience."

"At this time," he says, "three basic things came to me—a surrender to God, a genuine belief in prayer and a real belief in creative good will toward everybody."

He has taken these basic beliefs and combined them with a conservative concept of world and church affairs.

He says, "I am a conservative. I believe we ought to bring to the pulpit the Christian image in relation to current issues. I feel one of the weaknesses of the extreme left is that it assumes everybody is psychologically strong."

"Most of the people I know need inspiration to keep body and soul together as well as guidance as to where to apply faith."

"I DON'T FOLLOW the extreme conservative idea of a flaming Hell and personal devil—God to me is a god of love and the whole world pivots upon the individual who has the ability to feel the presence of God in a way unique to him."

Spring Concert Cuban Exile Planned By To Address Church Choirs Conservatives

Orchard Methodist Church will hold a spring concert Sunday, May 21, at 7 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.

The Chancel and Chapel Choirs will sing secular and showtime music including favorite tunes. Piano selections will be presented by the music director, David Kaiser.

The choir and music committee are hoping to raise funds toward a new piano for the choir room. Donations - \$1 Adults; 50 cents Students.

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The Rev. William Mercer

"For me this course would be Jesus Christ." In line with this conservatism, Mr. Mercer takes exception to clergymen creating civil disobedience. About this he says, "I know many ministers who have been so caught up in outside issues and meetings they are no longer ministering to their congregations."

"You just can't play God—you just do your best. I am a great believer in spending most of my energies where I am."

It's ideas like these the pastor expounds when he speaks on "Church of the Crossroads" each Sunday morning over WJW-Channel 4, a Detroit Council of Churches sponsored program.

He is a vice president of the Council and was once chairman of its department of television and radio.

Pacify with speech himself, Mr. Mercer feels there is a lack in the church today of "ministers who can make an idea live and who can communicate."

"YOUNG MEN ARE no longer interested in preaching. They are talking social issues."

"In my Sunday sermons I usually begin with a topic like 'stairway to the stars' or 'wings of morning,' and then study the scriptures for Biblical background."

"I try to apply this to our daily lives so that we get some sort of inspiration for daily life during the week."



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Methodist Women To Close Year

The five Circles of the Woman's Society of Christian Service of Orchard Methodist Church will meet this week for their final meeting of the year.

The Wesleyan Circle will meet for a noon luncheon Tuesday and will then take a tour of the antique shops in the vicinity of Six Mile and Hamilton. Detroit, Call Mrs. Raymond Barget for further information.

The Dorcas and Mizpah Circles will gather at the home of Mrs. James Hill, 32028 Bonnet Hill, for a potluck luncheon Wednesday. Mrs. Richard Smith will be co-hostess.

The Mary-Martha and Ruth Circles will meet in Fellowship Hall at the church for a potluck supper Thursday at 7 p.m. Mrs. John Cline and Mrs. Robert Cerey are co-chairmen.

Mrs. L.G. Beltz, president of the Woman's Society, invites all women of the church to attend one of these Circle meetings. Further arrangements can be made by calling one of the hostesses.

Potent Poison. An arrow poison, potent that one drop can kill a man if it enters his bloodstream is used by bushmen of the Kalahari wasteland in southern Africa. The poison is obtained from the pulp of a beetle by the primitive tribes men.

Olde Franklin's Almanac

By DOREE GOLDSTEIN, 626-9299 and NORMA GELNER, 626-3794
To swim or not to swim? Do you suppose we'll ever get out the swimming pool? We don't know.

In the meantime, landscaping is coming in - in abundance. And now that it's the house-hunting season it looks like our subdivision should be fully populated soon.

New arrivals: Irving and Sara Pitt, with one grown son in college.

Ray and Sue Wade and their three-year-old boy.

Heartiest congratulations to Dennis and Nancy Millgard on the birth of their third daughter, Cheryl Ann. She arrived

in Olde Franklin Town on April 8. Joel Friedman made out just fine at home while his parents, Jerry and Ann, took a tour which included stays at Rome, Florence, Pisa and a stop at Shannon, Ireland. Ann personally confirmed

that home is a fascinating city, the Florentines are still cleaning and repairing from the flood and that at the famous Pisa Tower does lean.

Please don't be shy. If you hear anything that you think should go into our column, please call us.

Women Attend GOP Convention

Mrs. Arthur Grosop and Mrs. Frank Kerr, delegates representing the Republican Women's Organization of Farmington Hills, accompanied by club president, Mrs. Frank DePodesta, and members Mrs. Richard Gaul and Mrs. John McCormick attended the convention of The National Federation of Republican Women's Clubs in the United States.

eration of Republican Women in Washington, D.C. May 4 thru May 8.

The main order of business during this gathering of prominent Republican women was the election of national officers to represent the National Federation of Republican Women's Clubs in the United States.

Continuing Improvements
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The Farmington area's most complete church directory

NORTH FARMINGTON BAPTIST CHURCH 32300 W. Thirteen Mile Road (Just west of Orchard Lake Rd.) Affiliated with the American Baptist Convention and the Metro Detroit Council of Churches "What If?" Worship Service 10:00 a.m. (Nursery) Church School 11:10 a.m. (All Ages)	TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH 26800 LaMorra Drive Farmington In Springland Subdivision 8:00 a.m. Holy Communion 10:30 a.m. Family Worship Service Church School Facilities at Beechview School The Rev. Joseph A. Petham Rector GR. 4-2860	FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 26165 Farmington Rd. at Eleven Mile Rd. Worship, Church School and Nursery 9:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m. George W. Ramsey, Minister Robert W. Sawyer, Jr., Asst. Minister Church - GR. 4-6176
Orchard Methodist Church 30450 Farmington Road Farmington Road between 42 and 14 Mile Roads FRANK A. COZZAD, Minister - GR. 6-0170 Worship Service and Church School at 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. Nursery Provided Office - MA. 6-4820	BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH 21605 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. 4-5844	The Lutheran Church of the INCARNATION 30333 W. Ten Mile Rd. Church School 9:45 a.m. Worship Service 1:00 a.m. Nursery Provided Rev. Peter C. Larson 476-3335 476-5318
First Methodist Church OF FARMINGTON Serving Farmington Since 1829 Grand River at Warner Worship Service and Church School 9:15 and 10:40 a.m. Minister Dr. W. Leslie Williams Pastor Pastor Visiting Mrs. Sidney Eva Parsonage GR. 4-3505 Office GR. 4-6225	HIGHLAND PARK BAPTIST CHURCH 28600 Lahser Southfield Badon 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 Rev. Badon Brown, speaking	ST. JOHN AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH 23225 Gill Road Grand River at ST. JOHN'S Alta Lomb Farmington Rd. Freedom Rd. WORSHIP SERVICES 8:30 11:00 Nursery - Both Services SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:40 a.m. Rev. Charles Fox, Pastor GR. 4-0584
North Congregational Church Northwestern Highway at Lahser Road EL. 6-1660 and 444-4276 MINISTER: Dr. Ralph H. Read 11:00 A.M. MORNING SERVICE OF WORSHIP 11:00 A.M. CHURCH SCHOOL Classes from Toddlers through Twelfth Grade Infant care provided ALL ARE WELCOME	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. 6-4477 Church Office GR. 4-6880 Carl M. Schultz, Minister	FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH Shlawasse at Farmington Rd. Farmington, Mich. MINISTER Rev. Walter C. Ballagh 11 A.M. - Morning Worship 9:45 A.M. - Bible School 5:45 P.M. 3 Youth Groups 7:00 P.M. Evening Worship 7:30 P.M. Wednesday Prayer Service Our Faith Is "Jesus Christ Himself Being the Chief-Cornerstone" Eph. 2:20 COME AND WORSHIP Telephone: GR. 4-9358
CLARENCEVILLE METHODIST CHURCH 20300 Middlebelt Rd. Livonia, Michigan Worship Service 9:00 a.m. Church School 10:15 a.m. Worship Service 11:15 a.m. Youth Groups 6:30 p.m. The Evening Service 7:30 p.m. Wednesday 7:30 p.m. Prayer Service ELISE A. JOHNS, Minister GR. 4-3563 GR. 4-6962	SAINT STEPHEN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH Worship - 10:00 A.M. Church School - 11:00 A.M. 6485 West Maple Road at Drake West Lake, Michigan 48062 HUGH V. STEWART Pastor Telephone 626-1400	JUDSON BAPTIST CHURCH Meeting in EAST JR. HIGH SCHOOL 25900 MIDDLEBELT ROAD 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
YOUR CHURCH SHOULD BE LISTED HERE FOR INFORMATION REGARDING THIS COLUMN CALL GR. 4-6225		