

Rev. Lester Kinsolving's

Religion Update

The Wall Street Journal's recent report of an estimated 40,000 clergy who are preaching \$1 million worth of sermons purchased from a dozen firms is about as morally edifying as the purchase of term papers from similar firms by lazy and dishonest college students.

Among proprietors of this homiletical prostitution, the Journal identifies Father Lawrence Brett of Baltimore, as well as former sportscaster Red Barber, an Episcopal layman who explains piously: "God is the greatest manager of us all."

Also among these procurers for pulpit plagiarism is one James Colaianni, who is quoted as explaining: "Keeping the sermons non-controversial broadens their appeal." (There was, nearly a decade ago, a James Colaianni who was a crusading editor of Ramparts Magazine. But that was before this periodical abandoned its Catholic identification in favor of that far-left literary wonderland which is as sweetly undisturbed by scruple as is Colaianni the sermon-peddler.)

ANY CONGREGATION

which discovers its pastor engaged in this sort of preaching - by purchase has even a reasonable right to ask:

(1) Was his seminary training comprised of theology - or was it limited to instruction in reading? (2) Why can't the parish save on its budget by eliminating the minister's salary in favor of mailing mimeographed copies of his sermon - service to the parishioners at home - while replacing his pastoral counseling with special subscriptions to either Dear Abby or Ann Landers?

Imitation may be the sincerest form of flattery, but rarely can the pulpit plagiarist approximate even the most modest efforts of a genuine preacher. And while the use of an occasional illustration from another sermon or sermons is perfectly legitimate, the lifting or purchase of an entire sermon by whatever financial arrangement is conducted unbecomingly the ministry.

Yet the Journal quotes the Rev. Charles Hund of St. Bartholemew's Catholic Church in Chicago as making the following admission:

"Frankly, I don't have the time or the training to produce a quality sermon each week. I don't think I'm shortchanging my congregation if I find something suitable from an outside source."

FATHER HUND might be more "practical" were he to emulate a long deceased (1885) West Point chaplain named Postelwaite who doubled as a member of the

Chaplain Postelwaite prepared 12 sermons, which, after he had preached them once, he repeated in an undeviating 12-week cycle as long as he was chaplain.

He did leave a lasting effect - from one of these sermons which every cadet heard 17 times before graduating, its text was: "Felix trembled." (Acts of the Apostles 24:25). And for generations at the U.S. Military Academy, a similarly recurrent phrase was known to all cadets as "Felix trembled."

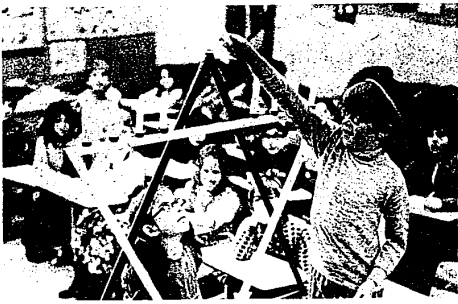
Some clergy practice lifting sermons without either permission or acknowledgment. This can be risky - as in the case of a young minister in Maine who boldly lifted one of the classic sermons of Harry Emerson Fosdick in its entirety.

The last person to greet this preacher at the door of his church that Sunday was an elderly man who expressed interest in the sermon and pleasantly inquired as to how long it had taken the preacher to prepare.

"Oh, it took me about three hours," replied the youthful person, loftily.

"Young man, that sermon took me 21 hours to prepare!" shouted the summer visitor, in what became immediately apparent as a full pulpit voice, frequently broadcast over radio.

"Well, Dr. Fosdick," replied the person with all the aplomb of a charming rogue, "You keep writing 'em and I'll keep preaching 'em!"



AKIVA DAY SCHOOL third graders watch as Joseph Greenbaum lights a candle of the menorah with a shamos (helper candle). Beside him is Susannah Schreiber. The candle lighting is one of the important traditions of the Jewish holiday, Hanukkah, which begins Nov. 30 and lasts for eight days. (Observer photo by Bob Woodring).

WORLD OF RELIGION

Architect Speaks To Women's Group

DETROIT In celebration of Hanukkah, the Detroit Women's Division of the American Jewish Congress, has invited Louis G. Redstone to speak at the luncheon, Thursday, Dec. 7, in the home of Mrs. Herbert Feak, 25260 Lathrup, Southfield.

Redstone, an architect and artist, will relate his experiences on a recent round-the-world trip. The talk will include a slide presentation.

He spent time with many of the native architects and artists who had contributed to his book, "Art and Architecture." Among the countries visited were Japan, Hong Kong, Thailand, India, Israel, and Switzerland.

The luncheon theme, "Member Bring a New Member," is designed to introduce people to American Jewish Congress and its activities. Guests are welcome.

While there is a charge of \$1.50 for lunch, all members who bring a new member, plus all new members, will be the guests of the American Jewish Congress.

The American Jewish Congress is concerned with a wide variety of community interests, both local and international. These include the survival of Israel, and maintaining the Louis Waterman Wise Youth Hostel in Jerusalem which serves as

Sermon Announced

SOUTHFIELD The Rev. Frank Gentile of Northwest Unitarian Universalist Church will speak on "In Paradise All That Glitters Is Not Gold" at 10 a.m., Sunday, Nov. 26.

Gentile plans to look beneath "Utopian" living in the United States, which he says includes such things as "the Dow Jones high, two cars in every garage, 24 hour grocery stores, grandparents and parents getting educations, expensive medical services, and expensive political campaigns."

Northwest Church is on Northwestern Hwy. at Maple Ridge.

Services Set

SOUTHFIELD Congregation Beth Achim will hold services Friday, Dec. 1, at 4:45 p.m. Saturday services will be at 8:45 a.m.

Hanukah is remembering...
Judas Maccabee and the Hebrew army Who fought to freedom Against overpowering odds and won.

Hanukah is believing...
That the Eternal Light will always shine As it did in the Temple in Jerusalem miraculously When the oil was almost gone.

Hanukah is rejoicing...
By lighting the Menorah By singing and watching the children spin the dreidel

Hanukah is rededication...
To the meaning of freedom The triumph of faith And the Jewish way of life.

Dinner To Honor Monsignor Kern

FARMINGTON Pontiac assembly-line worker, a graduate of Sacred Heart Seminary and former chaplain in the Catholic Worker movement, came to Rt. Rev. Clement H. Kern, Holy Trinity in 1943. He was pastor of the Most Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Detroit.

The testimonial dinner will be held in the Grand Ballroom of Cobo Hall, Thursday, Dec. 7.

MSGR. KERN is being honored in recognition of his outstanding dedication to humanitarian causes. Proceeds of the dinner will go towards the endowment fund of Histadrut's Afro-Asian Institute in Israel. Histadrut is Israel's labor and social pioneering organization which has helped to integrate more than a million homeless emigrants.

A special fund is to be set up in the name of Msgr. Kern. It will be a perpetual endowment with the income from it used to fund a large number of scholarships.

Since its establishment in 1960, more than 2,000 students from Africa, Asia and South America have completed their studies at the institute.

MSGR. KERN, son of a



BIRMINGHAM TEMPLE of Farmington has a new Hanukkah menorah, made by Martin Goldman (left) in honor of the 50th birthday of David Manheimer (right), cantorial soloist.

Temple Dedicates Hanukkah Menorah

Celebration of Hanukkah in the Birmingham Temple, 28811 W. 12 Mile, Farmington, will include dedication of a new Hanukkah menorah, family worship with youth participation and special holiday music.

Sisterhood Sets Meeting

The Sisterhood of Congregation Beth Abraham-Hillel will hold their next general membership meeting on Monday, Dec. 11, in the social hall of the synagogue, 5075 W. Maple, Birmingham.

A luncheon will be served at 12 noon. Entertainment will be provided by the Dan Frohman Choral Group. A donation of \$1 will be asked.

Prospective members and friends are invited to the meeting. The next board meeting will be Dec. 18.

Club Hosts Dinner Dance

FARMINGTON The Men's Club of Adas Shalom Synagogue, Farmington, will hold the first social event of the season, a Hanukkah dinner dance, Sunday, Dec. 3.

The evening will feature a catered dinner and music by the Sammy Barnett orchestra. William Zinnerman and Saul Rose are co-chairmen of the event. Reservations may be made through the Temple synagogue which is at 13 Mile and Middle Belt Rds.

TEMPLE BAPTIST CHURCH
23800 W. Chicago

CHANNEL 30
SUNDAY MORNING 8:30 a.m.

Dr. G. B. Vick, Pastor
10 a.m. Sunday School
11 a.m. Morning Worship
7 p.m. Evening Service

Speaker: 11:00 a.m.
Dr. G. B. Vick

7:00
Dr. John Rawlings
From Cincinnati, Ohio
LESSON: Esther II

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DAPHNE C. SCHMALZRIEDT LUCE, MGR

Visit a House of God

Judson Baptist Church
28301 Middlebelt Rd. Farmington
(Between 12 and 13 Mile Roads)
Rev. Fred G. Ferris, Pastor

Morning Worship 11:00 a.m. Sunday Services Youth Meetings 5:45 p.m.
Bible School 9:45 a.m. Evening Services Evening Gospel Hour 7 p.m.
Mid Week Bible Study and Prayer Wednesday 7:30 p.m.
Feeling the heat of the Spirit for the best of you.

Emmanuel LUTHERAN CHURCH
Lahser Rd. nr. 9 Mile. EL 7-1848

Servitor 10:45 a.m.
Church School 9:30 a.m.

WORSHIP WITH US.

SALEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
181/2nd at Gd. River Farmington

Sunday School 9:00 a.m.
Adult Bible Study 9:00 a.m.
Worship Service 10:15 a.m.

Nursery Provided
Parsonage GR 6-0487
Church GR 4-6880
Carl H. Schultz, Minister

CLARENCEVILLE UNITED 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
8:30 p.m. Youth Groups
7:30 p.m. The Evening Service
Wednesday 7:30 p.m. Prayer Service

ELSIE A. JOHNS, Minister GR 4-6902

Church of the Redeemer
Southfield Road between 8 and 9 Mile

The Rev. John Orford Hart, Rector

8:00 a.m. Holy Communion
10:30 a.m. Morning Prayer and Sermon
Church School and Nursery
Holy Communion 10:30 a.m. on First Sunday

The Episcopal Church Welcomes You

CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER
Southfield Road between 8 and 9 Mile

The Rev. John Orford Hart, Rector

8:00 a.m. Holy Communion
10:30 a.m. Morning Prayer and Sermon
Church School and Nursery
Holy Communion 10:30 a.m. on First Sunday

The Rev. Frank D. Gentile, Minister
Northwest Unitarian Universalist Church
354 4488
Sunrise Service and Church School 10 a.m.
"In Paradise All That Glitters Is Not Gold"
Northwestern Hwy. at Maple Ridge

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626-2400

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26165 Farmington Rd. Farmington, Michigan 48111

Full Worship
Worship Service 9:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.
Church School 9:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.
George W. Ramsey, Minister
Homer E. Hye, Assistant Minister
474-6170

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF FARMINGTON
Grand River at Warner

Worship Service, Church School and Nursery 10:00 a.m.
Ministers
Reverend John N. Howell
Rev. Howard F. Snell
Parsonage GR 4-7568
Office GR 4-6573

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
21200 SOUTHWFIELD ROAD AT EIGHT MILE ROAD SOUTHWFIELD, MICHIGAN

SUNDAY: 11 a.m. Morning Worship
6 p.m. Baptist Youth Fellowship
WEDNESDAY: 7:30 p.m. OASIS HOUR
R. Merrill Jensen - Pastor 6 p.m. Vesper Fellowship

Evangelical Covenant Church
24331 W. 8 Mile - Telegraph
Church KE 5-0226 Detroit
Edwin J. Gensler, Pastor KE 3-3323

Sunday Services
9:30 a.m. Sunday School
10:45 a.m. Morning Worship
7:00 p.m. Evening Service

Church of Christ
of Southfield
22365 W. 11 Mile Road
356-9225

Sunday
10 a.m. Sunday School
11 a.m. Morning Worship
6 p.m. Eve. Worship
Wednesday
7:30 a.m. Bible Study
Lionel Burger Minister

Nardin Park UNITED METHODIST
29887 W. 11 Mile Road Farmington 476-8860

William Merson - Senior Minister
Meredith Merson - Associate Minister
Ing. Gary and George L. Still

Worship Service and Sunday School 9:15 and 11:00
"THE POWER OF POWER"
Dr. William Merson