



THE REV. JAMES THOMAS (center), minister of church education for both Nardin Park and Orchard United Methodist churches in Farmington, works with representatives of a laymen's

coordinating committee. Lynn McCorry of Nardin Park, chairman of the committee, is on the right and John Passfield of Orchard, vice-chairman, is on the left. (Evert photo)

Minister Of Education Shared By 2 Churches

By MARGARET MILLER

The Rev. James Thomas has come to Farmington in a ministry so new that "I'm writing my own job description."

Officially, Rev. Thomas is minister of church education for two United Methodist churches: Nardin Park and Orchard.

A shared staff member is new in church organization. Also new is the way this clergyman views his position.

"I'm a program enabler-staff trainer," he said, and goes on to explain that he means his work to be wider in scope than the church school, youth work, concept of minister of education.

"I'm ready to work with all elements of both congregations, so that people don't just get appointed to a church job—they get a handhold on it and with this understanding are equipped to give it their best."

JIM THOMAS arrived in Farmington in mid-October after 10 years as a parish pastor and nine more in Christian

education work.

With offices in the big Nardin Park complex at 2887 W. 11 Mile, he also serves the congregation of Orchard United Methodist, 30450 Farmington Road.

A board of six lay persons, three from each church, works with him to determine where his training can best be used to help each church and both.

They include Lynn McCorry, chairman, and W. Carl Brown and Mrs. Rex Spencer from Nardin Park. Orchard representatives are Jack Passfield, vice chairman, Mrs. Lester Beltz and Mike Schiller.

"BY WORKING together, both churches benefit," Rev. Thomas said.

"Each brings to discussions ideas that have worked successfully or could work successfully, and there are things I can add, and the result is a snowball effect."

In last week's session of the advisory committee, he said, the discussion was of a leisure

time ministry for the summer months.

"We came up with 20 different kinds of experiences," Rev. Thomas said. "Probably only three of these will be put into effect this first summer, but with discussions like these we're projecting four or five years ahead."

REV. THOMAS first visited Farmington about a year ago when he was invited to do a laboratory training school for church people who work with junior highs.

Discussions with him at that time convinced Nardin Park leaders their church had a need for education leadership, and a chance discussion with heads of Orchard UMC brought the realization that both were looking for an additional staff member.

By the time he was seriously considering the move to Farmington, it was at the invitation of both Dr. William Mercer of Nardin Park and the Rev. Eric Hammar of Orchard.

"And since I've been here,"

Rev. Thomas said, "several of my friends with similar training are beginning to put out feelers to see if there are other churches that would like to be put into this area of church work."

REV. THOMAS figures he took quite naturally into this aspect of the ministry. His parents worked together in the preaching and education aspects of parish teaching, and they still are active in a church in Fort Wayne.

Their son, growing up in the Evangelical United Brethren Church united with the Methodists several years ago to form the United Methodist Church, attended Central College and Evangelical Theological School in Naperville, Ill., and then went on to the University of Chicago Divinity School and the Garrett Theological Seminary at Northwestern University. He also attended the Maywood Lutheran Seminary.

After 10 years as a parish pastor, he returned to school for an MA in religious education, earning it from the Oberlin School of Theology nine years ago.

He and his wife, Joyce, both are certified by the UMC certifying body in Nashville to be laboratory leaders in Christian education. They have three children.

Rev. Thomas has several other certifications, including one to conduct sexuality discussions for junior highs and their parents.

"This is a weekend adventure that I've led for about 20 years in the last four years," he said, adding that it probably would be part of the program here. Also under discussion are such adventures in learning as a week-long "camp" for senior citizens.

Jehovah's Witnesses Rap Malawi 'Persecution'

Jehovah's Witnesses recently assembled in Detroit, many from Ohio surnamed congregations, recently passed a resolution to "publicly deplore the atrocities being committed against Jehovah's Witnesses in the Republic of Malawi."

Recent reports have indicated that the African country, where there are many converts to the Witnesses faith, has persecuted members of the faith.

Removals from jobs, burnings of homes and killings

have been reported, and news accounts have told of many being forced to flee their homes and walk more than 350 miles to Zambia to escape persecution.

THE REASON, said the resolution passed in the recent meeting, is that "they choose to worship the true God Jehovah and because, as conscientious Christians and for scriptural reasons, they will not become a part of the world and join the Malawi Congress Party or any

political organization."

The resolution passed by 1,009 Jehovah's Witnesses meeting at 10709 Grand River, appealed to Dr. H. Kamuzu Banda, president of the republic, and other authorities to bring an end to the reported "maltreatment" and also asked all "honest-hearted people of Malawi ... to refuse to have any part in the persecution."

There have been some 23,300 Jehovah's Witnesses in the Republic of Malawi.

THE RESOLUTION, passed in Detroit, stated that one dispatch told of "at least 10 Jehovah's Witnesses being killed and many homes burned because Jehovah's Witnesses refuse to join the nation's sole political party."

A New York Times story on the situation in Malawi said there were "reports of massive harassment that led to the deaths of 11 Witnesses, the raping of women members of the group, the burning of Witnesses' homes and what amounted to the forcible expulsion of most of the 23,000 adherents in the country."

Fatima Statue Coming

The international pilgrim virgin statue of Our Lady of Fatima, recently famed as a "weeping" statue, will be at St. John Bosco Catholic Church, 12170 Beech, Daily Redford Township, for 8 p.m.

rosary services Saturday, Jan. 13.

The statue, which is taken to cities around the country on "pilgrimages," then will go to the Marian Center, 8901 W. Vernor, for two weeks beginning Jan. 14. The chapel will be open from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily, and masses will be offered at 12 noon and 8 p.m.

Recent publicity and investigation has resulted from the discovery of "tears" on the face of the statue on a number of occasions.

Catholic Singles Meet

The Catholic Alumni Club of Detroit, for Catholic singles, will meet at 8 p.m. Monday, Jan. 15, in the faculty lounge of the Mercy College Conference Center, West Outer Drive and Southfield, Detroit.

Refreshments will follow a business meeting.

BIBLES BOOKS CHURCH SUPPLIES

33493 Seven Mile LIVONIA - 477-7720

TEMPLE BAPTIST CHURCH
23800 W. Chicago
Dr. G. B. Vick, Pastor

Channel 31
SUNDAY MORNING 8:30 a.m.

Speaker: 7 P.M.
Dr. JACK VAN IMPE
LESSON: Esther 8

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CYO Is Seeking Nominees

The board of directors of the Catholic Youth Organization will make its sixth annual presentation of Ed Crowe awards to outstanding volunteers in 1972 programs at a banquet March 25.

Nominees are now being sought. Interested persons may obtain nomination forms from the CYO office, 305 Michigan Avenue, Detroit, 48226.

The nominations may be made by anyone who is familiar with the CYO volunteer's work, but must be signed by both the nominator and the parish pastor, youth activities chaplain or the president of a non-parish sponsored group.

The recipient must have given outstanding service in a CYO program for at least two years and not have previously received an Ed Crowe Award.

Deadline for mailing nominations is Feb. 15. Parishes will be expected to purchase the recipient's award tickets.

Ed Crowe helped found the CYO in 1933 and, until his sudden death in 1961, served as full-time director.



Pastors Will Meet Jan. 17-19

"The Response of the Institutional Church to People Seeking Salvation" will be the theme of the Michigan Pastors' Conference at the University of Michigan Jan. 17-19.

The conference will be sponsored by the Michigan Council of Churches in cooperation with the University Reformed Church and the U-M's extension service and office of religious affairs.

THE PURPOSE is to bring together theologians and U-M faculty in a discussion of ethical issues related to the theme.

Speakers will discuss the theology of the pastor's role, the activities and values of

Church Plans Celebration

The Plymouth Church of the Nazarene, 41550 E. Ann Arbor Trail, Plymouth, will celebrate its 40th anniversary on Sunday, Feb. 4.

The Singing Spear Family from Nashville, Tenn., will be featured in both the 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. services.

Dr. E. W. Martin, superintendent of the Eastern Michigan District, will be the speaker. The Rev. B. Edwin McDonald is pastor of the church.

The repertoire of the Spear Family ranges from modern gospel songs to old-time favorites. Featured by Expo '72 in Dallas last summer, they sang before nearly 100,000 people and were seen on national television.

Mercy Offers New Course

An eight-week course in "Contemporary Catechesis: Jesus and the Gospels" will be offered from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Thursdays beginning Feb. 8 in Mercy College of Detroit.

The course may be audited or taken for one college credit. Students may register at the first class meeting in Room 329 of the Administration Building, W. Outer Drive and Southfield, Detroit.

SA Seeks Donations

The Salvation Army is now accepting donations of money to aid victims of the earthquake in Nicaragua.

Donations should be marked "Nicaragua Disaster Fund," and sent to The Salvation Army, 601 Bagley, Detroit, 48226.

Food supplies are being bought in Panama and shipped directly to Nicaragua.

CHURCH OF CHRIST (Christian)
MEMORIAL CHURCH OF CHRIST
35475 Five Mile Livonia
BIBLE SCHOOL 9:30 a.m.
WORSHIP SERVICE 10:45 a.m.
6:30 a.m. Youth Meetings and Evening Worship
Max Copeland, Minister
Mark Copeland, Associate Minister

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE
Churches of the area cordially invite you to attend their services. Sunday School is conducted at the same hour as church, and care is provided for children of pre-Sunday School age.

Hours of Service
FOURTH CHURCH, Detroit 11 a.m.
24400 W. Seven Mile near Telegraph

UNITED METHODIST
NEWBURG UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
28500 Ann Arbor Trail
Rev. Ben Schmitt, Minister
Rev. Ben Schmitt, Asst. Minister
422-0149
Worship and Church School 9:30 and 11:00 a.m.

ALDERSGATE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
10000 Beech Day Road
Worship and Church School 9:30 and 11:00 a.m.
533-7905

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
6443 Meridian Road
421-8628
Worship and Church School 9:30 and 11:00 a.m.

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
45201 North Chalmers
453-5280
Worship and Church School 9:30 and 11:00 a.m.

ORCHARD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
30450 Farmington Road
304-6820
Worship and Church School 9:30 and 11:00 a.m.

CLARENCEVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
20320 Midland, Livonia
477-1050
Worship and Church School 9:30 and 11:00 a.m.

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CHURCH OF THE SAVIOR
38140 Five Mile Rd.
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Divine Worship 10:30 a.m.
Nursery Care 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.
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464-1062
Rev. Harold Van Derk, Pastor
Minister of Extension
Rev. Moody Van

LUTHERAN (MISSOURI SYNOD)
LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE RISEN CHRIST
46250 Ann Arbor Road
Worship 9:30 and 10:30 a.m.
453-5552
Worship Services
Every Sunday 8:00 a.m.
and 10:30 a.m.
Bible Class 9:15 a.m.
Nursery Provided

St. Paul's Lutheran Church and School
Middlebelt at 8 Mile Rd.
474-0675
W. F. Rutkowski, Pastor
Thomas A. Scherger, Asst. Pastor
4 Weather, Principal
8:30 and 11:00 a.m.
4:40 Sunday School
Worship Service (Nursery Provided)

PRINCE OF PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
12 Mile at Farmington Rd.
474-0210
Rev. Victor A. Meehan
Worship Services
9:30 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Nursery Provided, Daily Live Service

AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCHES
CHRIST THE KING
421-0749 484-2906
The Rev. Dr. A. A. Road
Worship Services 8:15 and 11:00 a.m.
1 Church School 9:30 a.m.

ST. JOHN'S
30650 West Six Mile
Worship and Church School 9:30 a.m.
427-1414 484-3908
Worship, Church School
Nursery 9:30 and 11 a.m.
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30333 W. 10 Mile Road Farmington
474-5318 476-3335
11:00 Sunday School
9:30 Sunday School
7:30 p.m. Wednesday
Small Group Worship

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14350 Warner Road, Redford
Rev. Jerry Stroud
Family Worship 10:00 a.m.
Study for all ages
11:00 a.m.
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427-2100
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Saturday Evening Worship at 7:00 p.m.
Nursery 1:00 Sunday School 10:30

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