

How New School Appointee Sees His Job

By CORINNE ABATT

FARMINGTON
Persons wondering how to address the newest member of the Farmington school board, Rev. Hugh Stewart, minister of St. Stephen United Presbyterian Church, might start with "Hugh." Or "Mr. Stewart," for those who don't feel comfortable on a first name basis. "It shouldn't be just Rev. because Rev. is an adjective. Pastor is OK, too."

Because of the kind of a person he is, informal, easy to talk with, he would prefer to be on a first name basis with the people of Farmington. That's the way he answers the phone.

"That is also something he hopes to accomplish during his term of appointment to the board."

"It seems to be the board also has to be a vehicle through which citizens feel responsibility for the schools. The board is going to buy difficulty if it doesn't keep lines of fruitful communication open. I can't understand why people get up tight in the presence of a board member—instructors and administrators particularly—but they do."

He continues, "People of the community should know at least one board member they can communicate with. The lack of communication is a contributing factor to the dimensions of any problem."

Stewart, who was appointed last month to fill the unexpired term of Ronald Emmitt, ran as an unsuccessful candidate last June. He did so with the blessing of his church congregation.

"They were very supportive of my candidacy. They were the basis of my campaign."

All of this falls in with his personal philosophy and that of his congregation.

"My family have always been quasi-political. They're all active in partisan politics. There is an example in our family. One just doesn't sit around and observe."

He speaks of making the church and religion relevant and says, "Our congregation is very much the same way themselves. The congregation is very active in the community as well as the church. Our congregation provides the space for the West Bloomfield drug program. One of them is on the board. Three are on the

board of the Farmington drug program."

Stewart got involved in education in Farmington via the citizen committee route. He chaired the four year study by citizens to set up guidelines on family life education.

The committee gave the board guidelines in human sexuality which may seem as just sex education to some, but I think it is much more. We also studied minority understanding and substance abuse."

He speaks of some of his contemporaries at McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago who have since left the ministry.

"Many had not worked out a rapprochement to functioning relevantly."

As a board member, Stewart has several concerns in

addition to fostering better communication.

"I am concerned for the academically able. This is an area which I just feel we have not addressed ourselves to."

He frequently dips into his background to explain himself to the listener. In this case, his wife Patricia's teaching experience in an independent school in the Philadelphia area has had some influence. Both have seen what special challenges and high teacher interest can mean to the academically able.

He sees the Southwest Oakland Vocational Education Center as a response to some particular needs of students.

Along with this he says, "There is no reason why we can't also come up with the resources to creating some

thing for the achieving child."

The possibility of grouping the academically able together at the secondary level is what Stewart thought, along with keeping some of the schools open on a year around basis for the programs.

As a former banker who predicts he will take a conservative view in relation to fiscal policy, he calls keeping all district schools open 12 months a year "economically not feasible."

The cost of air conditioning some of the buildings in treeless areas would be prohibitive.

However, he says, "I don't think it would be unreasonable to continue exploring a modified year round school plan. We could create a setting for elementary age chil-

dren who are academically able at a building such as Wooddale, where there is tree cover."

Another concern is for the establishment of goals and objectives—priorities set down on paper.

"The thing which intrigues me is why, in an essentially auto oriented society, some of these attitudes for establishing where we want to be in five years have not permeated to the schools."

Stewart ends his conversation on a note of hope.

"Because I am a Christian, one of the most important things I have is a perspective of hope. God is ultimately the source of hope and I am able to participate with Him in structuring a context of hopeful experiences. I would suggest that fits in with some



REV. HUGH STEWART
of my attitudes about education."

Stewart and his wife are both native born Easterners turned Midwesterners. He is from upstate New York originally and she from New Jersey, not far from New York City.

Dan McCosh writes



The middle of last summer, the peerless woman who invests the Farmington Community Center with much of the warmth and "home-ness" the community has come to expect, said she was looking for an idea for a fund-raiser.

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Davey Concert Is Result Of Inspiration

Their calendars long in advance, the Farmington community has come to expect, said she was looking for an idea for a fund-raiser.

At the time, she had a vague notion of something musical; in a place big enough to hold a decent-sized crowd, and something which would bring real enjoyment to the patrons.

In a way, she was looking for some kind of project to work into an annual "event" for the center—a project big enough to generate a sizable income, and something which people would put on

their calendars long in advance.

The vague idea took life, and now the center is sponsoring a Max Davey concert Dec. 7 in Detroit's Ford Auditorium.

She got the name, the place and the program she wanted, and all the people who work for the center are looking for a big success.

Max Davey puts on one of the outstanding shows of the Christmas season annually. His "Night To Remember" is usually a sellout.

The Max Davey choir is joined this year by Calvin

Marsh, an opera singer who will turn his talents to a program of Christmas music.

Davey, long one of those concerned with the health of the center, is putting on a special show for the benefit of the center the night before his regular Christmas concert.

The need for such a fund-raiser was becoming apparent last year to Mrs. Taylor.

The popularity of the community center as a place for local clubs to meet, and the success of the programs offered by the center, were

putting a strain on the facilities.

The fire marshal looked at the crowds and the building wiring and asked for new wiring. The parking lot had to be expanded. Even the rug showed signs of wear.

The result was the center, which runs mainly self-supporting programs, budgeted \$15,000 in expenditures, about \$30,000 in excess of its revenues, this year.

The difference was expected to be made up by a fund drive early this year, but that effort was short of

what was needed.

Hopefully, the Davey concert will make up the difference.

Mrs. Harry Stultz, general chairman of the benefit, is hoping many groups will make a big evening of the concert.

The center will be running a few buses, and some organizations will be able to get their own bus through the center.

Mrs. Stultz is also holding teas with community groups, hoping to interest them in going as a group.

"The idea is to make an evening out of it," Richard Sabatini said.

Nancy Tesner Learns To Teach In Rome

FARMINGTON
Nancy Tesner, 20, a Michigan State University senior from Farmington, will be doing her student teaching in Rome next term. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Tesner of 26557 Middle Belt.

Miss Tesner, who graduated from North Farmington High School in 1970 and was church organist at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, was chosen from 74 applicants who were competing for the 20 open positions.

A child development major, Miss Tesner explains, "My school emphasis is on child development rather than general elementary education."

This past summer she worked at the Durbin Day Nursery in Farmington and is currently doing work at the lab preschool on campus and at Everett Elementary School in Lansing.

In both schools she is a teacher's aide and helps with

slow learners, watches the playgrounds and corrects papers.

After graduation, Miss Tesner would like to work with Vista in the southwest United States, perhaps on an Indian reservation. Now, however, she is excited about the prospect of teaching in Rome.

"It should be almost ideal," she said. "Materials are few but classroom sizes in the private American school where I will be teaching will be small. I don't think I'll have any trouble relating my teaching experience in Rome to an American classroom situation."

For Miss Tesner, student teaching in Rome will be a two-way street. She will have the experience of teaching in Rome and will bring to the faculty of the American school in Rome new ideas and techniques from an American center of learning.

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Powers Paving Is Considered

A request to restrict traffic and a request to pave Powers Rd. south of Grand River were received by the Farmington City Council Monday.

A hearing on the paving necessity was set for Dec. 17. The public safety department was asked to conduct a survey of traffic on the street, which was suspected of doubling over the summer.

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