

Deny 'Interim Church'; Neighbors Vow Fight

FARMINGTON
A local congregation, which has been meeting for two years in a school, may have trouble establishing a new church because of objections from a neighboring subdivision and problems in meeting the Farmington Township building code.

The Farmington Hills Baptist Church has been meeting at Bond Elementary School for the past two years.

This week they were before the township zoning board of appeals, seeking permission to erect an "interim chapel" on land they bought on 14 Mile Rd.

The building, 23 feet by 56 feet, would be moved in on wheels and placed on a foundation at 32999 14 Mile Rd. The church has purchased a home and land from Ralph Fulton, of that address.

The zoning board, meeting this week, refused to grant permission for the church to erect its temporary chapel, "for a

lack of jurisdiction," according to board chairman Charles Lorton.

TOWNSHIP ATTORNEY Terry Brennan told the church's Rev. Allan Poage, 32029 Shawassaw, that under township zoning laws, "it doesn't fit and can't be built."

"This board is involved in the use of land. If you had asked for a building permit you would have been told no. This is a temporary building under the code, and no permit can be issued, and that's why the building inspector tipped the hot potato to this board. The only temporary buildings we can approve are construction buildings," Brennan said.

Brennan explained that temporary bank buildings came under special provisions of the law, but that temporary offices, or businesses are not allowed, nor could the church building be.

RESIDENTS of the area objected in letters written to the township.

According to Sheldon Slavin, 30816 Peardridge, over 75 per cent of the people living in the West Franklin Estates objected to the idea of a temporary church.

Slavin said the homeowners in the area were not opposed to the church, but to the township's zoning methods.

Slavin said his group objected to:

● Allowing churches to be built under residential zoning.

● Churches should not be allowed to move into subdivisions; it's a form of spot zoning," Slavin said.

● Use of a lot deemed for a single residence for a church.

● The encroachment of further developments along 14 Mile Rd. "There's more at stake than just the church," Slavin said. He said he felt commercial development would be next. "This is just the beginning."

Slavin said he wanted to make it clear that his group did not oppose the church, nor its congregation.

"I think a church ought to be able to go to the township hall and seek their help in finding good sites, like an industry or a commercial establishment might," Slavin said.

The greatest problem, Slavin said, was fear that people along 14 Mile Rd. "would sell out."

Representatives from Slavin's group, as well as from the church, were present at the meeting of the appeal board.

Slavin said he was prepared to speak against the church, but was not asked to since the board decided to act on the request.

Rev. Poage said Wednesday he would talk with Township Building Inspector Paul Soover and show him blue prints and schematic drawings of wiring for the "mobile" or interim chapel.

He explained that the Baptist State Convention owned five of the movable structures. He hopes that if wiring and plumbing meet the code, his church can be qualified as a permanent structure. He said he also expected they would build a permanent church "within two years."

"I think some of the objections came because of schematics. This does not look like an old house trailer; it has two class rooms, two restrooms and chapel space," he said.

REV. POAGE said they would use the house on the site as his home.

He added that they might be able to use the house as a church. Poage also said they had extensive plans showing what buildings they wanted to build, and urged neighbors of the area to come and look at them before they make up their mind.

"The mobile church was described as unsightly, this is

simply not true," Rev. Poage said, referring to objections about the church.

RALPH FULTON, who sold his home to the church, circulated a letter to the residents in the area outlining his reasons for selling.

"We concluded a church on our property was much better as far as our neighbors were concerned, rather than the real possibility that otherwise the property would eventually be used for apartments or for another non-residential use," Fulton wrote.

Fulton said his parcel was 3.8 acres, and that any building of 14 Mile Rd. would cut out .3 acres. "This would leave almost three and a half acres, more than many churches in our township are fortunate to have," Fulton added.

Fulton also said he knew the

property across the street had been rezoned by West Bloomfield township for apartments.

"People in the area perhaps do not fully recognize that changes have already occurred," he said.

In a series of letters to homeowners in the area, and to township officials, the West Franklin Estates Homeowners Association suggested that the law needs to be changed to make church and residential zoning separate.

"It is the consensus that an additional church within our boundaries does not correspond to the original residential deed restrictions for the West Frank-

lin Subdivision. Is it fair and just to a subdivision which already has a church constructed on property which already has a home (the Fulton house) on it and which already has been deeded residential?"

The letters, from Slavin, also point out that a Methodist church (on Farmington Rd.) is already in the area, as well as the Catholic Diocese which owns 14 acres at Farmington and 14 Mile near the subdivision.

In addition, Slavin said, a firm known as Christian Expansion Organization has recently purchased a lot in the sub and that it also "constitutes a threat to our residentially deeded property."



AGE IS NO BARRIER — Enjoyment of an ice cream cone poses no age barrier for young Aimee Poquette and her mother, Debbie, of 21233 Waldron, Farmington Township. Both are eyeing each other's ice cream cone while cooling off. Little Aimee can't decide whose cone she likes best, and her mother wonders how much Aimee will be able to eat before the ice cream melts completely. (Observer photo)

Farmington Calendar

BLUE STAR MOTHERS

Aug. 13, Chapter 49 of the Blue Star Mothers of America will hold a luncheon and card party in the home of Marion Meyer, 11457 Aspen, Plymouth. The public is invited. For reservations, call 453-5549, GR4-3384 or GR4-2404 (evenings).

VETERANS OF WORLD WAR I

Aug. 14 at 2 p.m., Barracks 1152 Veterans of World War I will meet in the American Legion Hall, Lakeway at Grand River, Farmington. All World War I veterans are invited. Refreshments will be served.

CANTERBURY COMMONS FUN DAY

Aug. 16, Canterbury Commons Subdivision will hold its third annual family picnic and fun day.

JUNIOR FOOTBALL REGISTRATION

Aug. 18 and 19, Registration for boys nine through 12 years of age living in the Farmington-North Farmington-West Bloomfield area interested in playing junior football will be held at North Farmington High and Farmington High School, Boys living north of the 696 Expressway report at 4 p.m. to the NFH practice field. Boys living south of the expressway report at 5 p.m. to the FHS practice field. Bring the registration fee of \$10 per family.

SCHOOL BOOKSTORE HOURS

School bookstores will be open Aug. 13 through Aug. 29 in East Junior High School, 25000 Middle Belt; Dunkel Junior High School, 22800 12 Mile; and the main bookstore, 33000 Thomas. Hours: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday-Friday; 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., Aug. 15 and Aug. 22; 9 a.m. to noon Aug. 16 and Aug. 23.

SCHOOL REGISTRATION

Junior and senior high school registration will take place from 9 a.m. to noon and from 1 to 2 p.m. on Aug. 25, 26 and 27.

IMMUNIZATION CLINIC

Aug. 27 from 1 to 3 p.m. The Oakland County Health Department will hold an immunization clinic for Farmington area residents in the Wheeler Street Fire Hall.

Gifts and Decorative Accessories

Introducing Prince Gardner Jewel Boxes for Women

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Farmington-Made Products Help Land Men On Moon

FARMINGTON
Products made at the Omni Spectra plant in Farmington landed on the moon along with the Apollo 11 astronauts.

John H. Bryant, president of the firm, reported this and sales and earning data in a report to the company's stockholders this week.

"I am pleased to report that Omni Spectra products landed on the moon with the men of Apollo 11 on July 20. Our products were part of the radar used by the astronauts in their landing of the lunar module."

"The radar measured both the height and speed of the lunar module relative to the moon's surface. Apollo 11 also contained Omni Spectra products in the booster which launched

it from earth and in the command module which took the astronauts to and from the moon."

"IN THE BOOSTER, our products were part of the data transmission links, while in the command module they were in the equipment which transmitted voice as well as live television."

"Viewers in the United States and around the world saw this live television because of the communication satellites used to relay the Apollo 11 signals from earth stations. Like Apollo 11, the communication satellites also contain Omni Spectra products."

The report to stockholders covers the nine months ending

June 30. Both sales and net earnings for the third quarter were up substantially over the second quarter of the current fiscal year with sales increasing 22 per cent and net earnings increasing 68 per cent.

The company also reported the sale of the Maryland division. Omni Spectra products were doing well on overseas markets, as export sales totaled \$363,200 for the nine-month period, as compared to \$215,400 for a similar period last year. Omni Spectra came to Farmington in June, 1967, and is a prime developer of microwave components and instruments used in the space program. The firm moved into a new plant two years ago near Halstead Rd. and I-96.

Bookstores To Be Open

FARMINGTON
School bookstores in Farmington will be open from Aug. 13 through Aug. 29. East Junior High School, 25000 Middle Belt and O.E. Dunkel, 32800 Twelve Mile, will supplement the service of the main bookstore at 33000 Thomas St.

Regular hours of operation will be from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. Exceptions will be made on Friday,

Aug. 15 and 22 when they will remain open until 8 p.m., and Saturday, Aug. 16 and 23 from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. Registration for junior and senior high school students will take place Aug. 25, 26 and 27 from 9 a.m. to 12 noon and 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Frank and Bob say:



Frank Clappison

THE MORE honesty a man has, the less he affects the air of a saint.



Bob Clappison

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Near Beech Daly
KE 8-9400

QUAKER TOWN
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Near 12 Mile Rd.
476-9111

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