

Moral perspectives

4 years add perspective to columns

We've continued to put ourselves on the line because the columns have been old today. I am trying to speak for all of us who have a personal interest in the moral issues of our time.

We write about different faith traditions in each of us, speaking of them with respect and understanding. We see them as part of the fabric of our society, and we try to help them understand each other better. We see them as part of the fabric of our society, and we try to help them understand each other better.

We don't know of any facts on longevity of a column like ours but on our birthday we feel pride in simply having survived. We have grown in the challenge of relating to each other, our readers and the newspaper.

We often discuss the advantages and disadvantages of weekly appearing on the religion page. We want the public to see something more of religious life than press reports and reports of activities. On the other hand, we think we offer a view of social issues which should be seen by

those people who turn right past the religion page.

In four years we have never written on a specifically theological problem. Naturally we write from what we know within our religious communities but we focus on issues for humanity rather than issues within religious institutions.

We have not had much repetition or a constant theme because attention to changing issues requires a wide variety. This is not the place to defend religious principles or explain beliefs held in a worshiping community. We intend to offer help for comprehending the complexity of life. We write to suburbanites. Probably a majority of our readers are urban dwellers in social and working groups. We are grateful for the privilege of calling attention to moral dimensions in the knotty problems of urban living. Concerns of the



By **REV. CHARLES ERICKSON**
Congregational Church of Birmingham

ing is that feedback is just as skimps here as in preaching. Letters from readers are not as frequent as most people assume. We welcome suggestions and criticisms.

Our topics over four years have been as diverse as education and war, or as family life and international relations. Our pens have touched gun control and violence as well as voting and traditional celebrations. We have ranged from comment on a current issue to discussion of the United Nations.

Our aim has been to provide a look at life with values at the center of decision-making. We enter our fifth year eager to clarify truth, beauty and goodness in urban living. Morality is found in behavior evidencing integrity, dignity, honor and justice. Celebrate with us as writers and readers together grow in seeing the moral perspective in all of life.

whole metropolitan area affect each of us.

In a society where too many people feel hopeless we are a voice in the media pointing to meaning, to decisions, and personal values from day to day. One of the surprises in newspaper writing

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Lefton winner of Butzel memorial

Jack O. Lefton of Franklin, prominent Jewish community leader, is the recipient of the 1976 Fred M. Butzel memorial award for distinguished communal leadership.



JACK LEFTON

Presented annually since 1961 the Jewish Welfare Federation award is given each year in memory of Fred M. Butzel, a federation founder and Detroit philanthropist.

Jack Lefton has long been an exemplary communal worker. JWF president Martin E. Garo said in presenting the award during a recent meeting. His continuous leadership in civic and Jewish community affairs distinguishes him as a dedicated and committed man.

Lefton, retired president of Red Seal Oil Company, is presently a member of the federation board of governors, associate chairman of federations capital needs committee, a member of United Jewish Charities board of directors and a member of the 1976 Campaign Cabinet. In past years he has held many positions including pre-campaign chairmanship.

A past president of the Detroit Service Group, Lefton is very active in the Allied Jewish Campaign Israel Emergency Fund. He is presently serving as a member of the 1976 Campaign Cabinet. In past years he has held many positions including pre-campaign chairmanship.

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11:00 a.m. Wednesday
Pastor: Rev. James W. Wright
Phone: 474-5240

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Birmingham
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WEDNESDAYS
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323 South Bates, Birmingham
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23215 Turner Road
W. 23rd & Rte. 16
Farmington 48333
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11:00 AM
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