



'Our goal is not for growth in numbers but in our ministry to members of the community, of people to each other. Our aim is for quality.'

— The Rev. Mark Jensen

North Church's minister brings positive approach

By SHIRLEE IDEN

"What's the percentage in being a pessimist?" Absolutely zero, says the Rev. Mark P. Jensen, new senior minister at North Congregational Church.

Jensen said he operates under the philosophy that each day is a new day and a new start for each of us.

"It's an opportunity for growth and for hope," he said.

"I see progress. I see men and women both being liberated and living longer.

"People are organizing with positive attitudes into group to care for one another. No, I see no percentage in being a pessimist."

Jensen began his official duties on Jan. 6.

He succeeds the Rev. Paul Young who has relocated in California.

The Jensen family is now living in Farmington Hills and "liking it very much" according to the pastor.

Liane Jensen is a registered nurse and currently the full-time mother and homemaker for her husband and Matthew, 5, and Rachel, 2.

"BUT IN TIME I expect Liane will look for part-time work," he said.

Born in Minneapolis, Jensen spent the last seven years in Boston where he was associated with the Roslindale Community Congregational Church.

He attended Colgate Rochester Divinity School in Rochester, N.Y.

Currently, he is finishing work on a doctorate degree at the Andover Newton Theological School in Massachusetts.

He expects to receive the degree in 1981.

Associated as a field education supervisor with the Harvard Divinity School, he has been active in the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches.

Specifically, his affiliation has been with the Youth Commission and the Missionary Society.

His ministry was inspired by personal associations and personal experiences.

"When I was a junior in college, I went to Alaska and had a marvelous experience with some people building a church," he said.

"Afterward, look at those people and looking at my family minister, I decided I could be a minister and be human as well."

BEING WITH people is the best part of being a minister, he says. It is people acting out positively with hope that turns him on the most.

"For me, North Congregational Church is one where the congregation has reached a plateau in its ministry and is now ready to leap into a new period of life," he said.

"I look for this to be a period of life, growth and outreach."

The Congregational Church is the oldest church in America, but North Congregational of Southfield has always taken a young approach to religion and community service, he said.

In past years, North Congregational Church has



Mark and Liane Jensen's family consists of Matthew, 5, and Rachel, 2. But Jensen's pastoral flock at North Congregational Church numbers more than 1,000.

spearheaded programs such as We Care Inc. which gave counseling and other services to ex-convicts and their families.

Last summer "Workshop in the Woods" was relocated at North Church, providing headquarters for a respected musical program in the Southfield community.

At holiday time, "Bach for a Buck" concerts were also given at the church.

MOST RECENTLY the church hosted a Jan. 7 benefit concert with Temple Kol Ami and the Southfield Arts Council. Proceeds went to aid Cambodian refugees.

Jensen said these are the kinds of social action activities the church needs to expand its vistas.

"Our goal is not for growth in numbers but in our ministry to the members of the community, of

people to each other," he said. "Our aim is for quality."

"One of the reasons I came here is that this church has a reputation in the national organization as a church which has reached out from the suburbs into the city."

North Congregational Church has been in Southfield 15 years and has an approximate membership of 1,023.

Jensen will celebrate his 10th anniversary of ordination this summer.

"My first church had 200 members and the next one 500, so this one is a challenge," he said.

When he isn't ministering to his flock or helping with the children, you might find Jensen restoring antiques.

"Find me a piece of junk 75 or 80 years old and believe me, I'll have a good time with it."

Staff photos by Mindy Saunders

It's Jaycee Week

Local members bask after very good year

By LORRAINE MCCLISH

"The best year we've ever had, at least award-wise" will mark the Farmington Area Jaycees' participation with chapters throughout the world in celebration of Jaycee Week Jan. 20-26 proclaimed by local governments in recognition of the service club.

The 185 members of the local club have multiple reasons for celebrating the past year, described by its president, Jim Mitchell, to have been "the best year we've ever had, at least award-wise."

The club took the Henry Gleesbier Award in state division competition for "best programming," and from this stemmed the William Otto Award, for "Most Outstanding Chapter" in the state.

So far as programming goes, Mitchell estimates the membership juggled between 130-150 different projects either running simultaneously or spilling over one another throughout the year.

The chapter was also recognized as No. 1 in the Parade of Chapters.

"This is an incentive program where each chapter earns points for performances and projects, and that was quite an honor for us," Mitchell said.

FORMAL MEMBERSHIP drives are scheduled quarterly but new members are welcomed throughout the year. "Any one between the ages of 18-35 are welcome to drop in at our meetings," Mitchell said. Meetings begin at 8 p.m. the second and fourth Tuesday of every month in American Legion Hall on Grand River.

Mitchell can be reached for membership inquiries during the day at 642-9090. Evenings and weekends calls will be taken through the Jaycee telephone by calling 478-6551.



JIM MITCHELL

He advocates membership in the Jaycees because "we allow an individual to become a leader in his community. We provide the training ground; then we spread that expertise throughout the community," he said.

"We provide the room," he said, "for a person to conceive an idea, put it into action and see it through to completion."

"Success is not measured by anything other than the organizational skills and management techniques that have been developed in the interim. That man may never have been given the opportunity to lead anything before and can find out that he can do more than he thought he could."

EXAMPLES of "spreading the expertise throughout the community" are two Millionaires Parties; one that took place late last fall, another that is coming up, in conjunction with two different service groups in town.

The Gathering Place asked for help in getting tools for its Chore Program.

"Instead of acting as an invisible entity who does out money, we helped the senior adults in staging a Millionaires Party," Mitchell said. "We taught them how to use the gambling tables, helped sell the tickets and solidified contacts. Our parties have always been good money makers and we've had enough experience so we were sure it was a good way to go."

The party-giving expertise will be repeated for a Millionaires Party, headed by former Jaycee John Sprys, as a benefit for Farmington Community Center, Saturday, Feb. 9.

In planning for that event, Sprys commented he had "no trouble rounding up a few workers."

The chapter works with about \$75,000 coming in and going out continuously in any one given year.

OTHER THAN the regular twice-a-month meeting scheduled for Tuesday, Jan. 22, the Jaycees have planned one special event for Jaycee Week.

The group's annual Prayer Breakfast begins at 7:30 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 22, in Mercy Center.

For the 13th annual breakfast the group will host Lloyd B. Livingston as guest speaker. Livingston is a member of National Speakers Association and a certified instructor of Dale Carnegie courses.

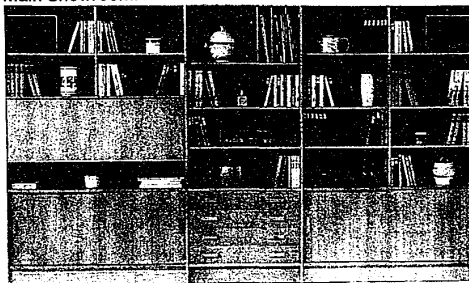
Tickets are \$5 each and may be purchased by calling the Jaycee telephone number.

Mitchell's vice presidents for the 1979-80 term are Thomas A. Duke, Jr., Thomas Brown and Gerald Horner. Secretary is William Stransky and treasurer is Allen Weirmer.

Directors are Howard Aldrich, Randy Dozer, Ronald Diderich, Dennis Clement, Christopher Kuclo, Peter Sanderson, Robert Brown, Brian Chesley and Robert Smith.

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