

# moral perspectives

## Rev. Charles Erickson

### Symbols give vitality by releasing energy from our past and our hopes

We all know the Chinese proverb that "One picture is worth more than 10,000 words." Let's add that a symbol is worth more than 10,000 pictures. Power flows in allowing a picture to communicate without words and a symbol to work without diminishing its impact on a picture. We are deprived by giving in to the temptation to suppose we can or should explain art.

Symbols work by stimulating thoughts, feelings and actions. They cause recall of ideas, emotions and events. They move the whole person into the future. A symbol is experienced. It gives vitality only by releasing energy from our past and from our hopes.

Our excessive orientation to words tempts us to cheapen symbols by the severe limitations of language. When we merely think about symbols, we usually distort their meaning and purpose. In our faith communities, we keep our symbols straight so they reach deeply and point far.

Then it is our moral duty to help each other keep symbols clean. A symbol should be allowed to work in simplicity, in an uncluttered scene. It will release hidden resources and unsuspected opportunities.

**THE PRIMARY** symbol of Judaism is the Torah. It suggests divine order as an active force always working to overcome chaos. Torah was and is and will be. It translates into English as law which is motivating, dynamic and guiding. And much more, for words only touch the surface.

Judaism is distorted when the symbol is viewed as a merely intellectual reminder of Ten Commandments. It is so easy, in English, to slip from law into laws. Then we have a picture con-

veying good ideas by lacking the power of memory and hope. A symbol involves the whole person — mind, heart and hand.

The primary symbol of Christianity is the cross. It suggests facing outward by giving up self-concern. It both recalls and inspires sacrifice. It identifies and activates compassion. It creates anticipation of the coming kingdom of God.

Christianity is distorted when the symbol is used as a mirror focusing attention on our sorrow or sacrifice. It is so easy to slip from a savior for humanity to the privatism of preoccupation with my sin and salvation. Then we have a picture of a good idea lacking liberating power. A symbol ties the most intimate to the most social.

**IN OUR PLURALISTIC** world, our moral duty is to respect and honor our own and each other's symbols. Be wary of seeking understanding, for the point is that symbols transcend concepts and comprehension. Symbols humiliate by coming between divine and human. They generate personal and social wholeness by involving intellect, passion and experiential action.

Most every contemporary organization has developed a logo. We are skilled in referring to an enterprise by initials. Let's go another step to let symbols be symbols. They will enrich our participation in developing social policy and planning community and national action.

A symbol conveys unlimited meanings, is based in feelings about an historical experience, and inspires creative activity. It involves consciousness, concern and behavior. Give a symbol a chance and it will do more work than words or pictures.

# gerontology

## A. Jolayne Farrell

### A separation during a retirement crisis would be poor timing

Dear Jar: Ever since my husband retired last April, our lives have been most unhappy, to say the least. I am spending most of my time cleaning up after him, instead of just in the morning and evening as I did when he was working. He has no hobbies. He just sits around the house making remarks about my disorganization in remarks worth, shopping, etc. We argue constantly. We can't discuss anything that doesn't end up in an argument.

Frankly, I am at my wit's end. I am considering a separation. Help.

Retirement is a developmental stage in a person's life just as in adolescence, marriage and parenting. It is very common for people going through these stages to find themselves in a developmental crisis. I sounds like this is what you and your husband are experiencing.

It is unfortunate that your husband does not have a hobby. Women have so many advantages in the later years, for example, most do not go through a formal retirement and many have hobbies that go from housework to needpoint. You and your husband must help yourselves by getting some professional counseling, be it marriage counselor, a doctor, a psychologist, social worker, public health nurse or a clergyman.

A separation during this retirement

development crisis would be poor timing on your part. Your husband needs help in setting up a satisfactory daily life pattern. You and a counselor can help him.

If your husband refuses to go for help, I suggest that you go alone. It takes some couples well over a year to adjust to retirement. Good Luck.

Dear Jar: I would like your opinion on "over-the-counter water pills." I was on Dyazide for a couple of years. If used, as directed on the box, are they harmful? I need a water pill once in a while. My blood pressure stays around 145-150 over 80-84. Thank you.

F.F. If your doctor prescribed Dyazide for you, why are you no longer taking it? He has assessed your health, diagnosed and prescribed a medication for you, taking into consideration your age, weight and physical status.

On you next visit to your doctor, bring along your "over-the-counter water pill" in its container, and ask him what he thinks you should do.

There are many brands of "water pill" on the market today, and they all do not contain the same chemicals. It would be my inclination not to take them unless I had the approval of my physician.

### volunteers

The Oakland County Volunteer Bureau has weekly listings of volunteer opportunities. Further information about these and other volunteer needs at more than 200 agencies may be obtained by calling the bureau at 642-7272. Any non-profit organization needing volunteer assistance may call the bureau.

**GARDEN MAINTENANCE ASSISTANCE** — The Institute for Advanced Pastoral Studies needs volunteers to assist in maintaining the garden grounds. The days and times needed are flexible

**Smoking clinic on May 5**

and a six-month commitment is required.

**VOLUNTEERS** — Support National Volunteer Week April 18-24 by finding out how you can put your valuable skills and talents to good use. The Oakland County Volunteer Bureau has weekly listings of volunteer opportunities. Some of the rewarding possibilities include: recreation, public relations, arts and crafts, counseling, guides and hospital work. You can sharpen your work skills and make potential paid employment contacts while helping to support community services.

The Michigan Lung Association is offering its "Cigarette Send-Off" clinic May 6 at Oakland University. The program will begin at 7 p.m. in Room 202 in Oakland University's O'Dowd Hall.

The clinic is held in cooperation with Crittenton Hospital, Oakland University's Cardiac Rehabilitation Program and Student Drug and Alcohol Awareness Committee.

# That Blessing May Shine on You. Come to Church

**For Church Directory Advertising Information**  
Please Call 644-1100 Ext. 200

**THE COVENANT BAPTIST CHURCH**  
1800 W Maple Rd W Bloomfield 48303  
9:45 a.m.: CHURCH SCHOOL 11:00 a.m.: WORSHIP SERVICE  
6:30 p.m.: EVENING SERVICE  
WEDNESDAY EVENING FAMILY NIGHT  
7 P.M. Dinner • 7 P.M. Chorus in Art, Drama & Bible  
• 8 P.M. Senior Choir Rehearsal  
Ministers: Rev. Nicholas Tilus and Rev. Edward Libby

**Orchard United Methodist**  
30450 FARMINGTON ROAD  
Between 13 and 14 Mile Road  
295-260  
MORNING WORSHIP  
8:30 AM & 11 AM  
CHURCH SCHOOL & NURSERY  
9:30 AM & 11 AM  
MINISTERS:  
Robert L. S. Brown  
James F. Thomas

**NORTH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**  
26275 Northwestern Highway near Lakeshore  
Southfield, MI PHONE: 356-1660  
United for the worship of God and service to Humanity  
Rev. Mark P. Jensen, Senior Minister  
Rev. Jeffrey Dwyer, Minister of Christian Education  
Rev. David W. Howell, Minister of Christian Education  
Dr. Harry Langford, Dr. of Music

**WORSHIP SERVICE 11 AM**  
**CHURCH SCHOOL 11 AM**

Nursery  
CIVIC CENTER DR.

**NORTHBROOK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
14 Mile and Lakeshore Roads  
WORSHIP SERVICE  
5:30 & 11:00 AM  
Pastor:  
M. L. Dunkelberger  
Peter Moore

**PRINCE OF PEACE LUTHERAN**  
Missouri Synod  
12 Mile and Farmington Roads  
Behind Crowleys  
Worship 8:30 and 10:45  
Sunday School & Bible Class 9:30  
Pastor: Rev. T. Richard Marcis  
Church Phone: 653-3380

**NARDIN PARK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
29887 West Eleven Mile Road  
Just West of Middlebelt  
Farmington Hills 476-8860  
Worship Services 9:15 & 11 AM  
"WHY I WOULD DO IT AGAIN"  
Dr. Wm. Ritter preaching  
Dr. William A. Ritter, Pastor  
Mrs. Bettye Miller, Dr. C. E. Mr. Melvin Rookus, Dr. Music

**Christian Science Churches**  
FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST  
BIRMINGHAM  
191 Chester at Willis  
SUNDAY SERVICES 10:30 AM  
SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:30 AM  
WEDNESDAY TESTIMONY MEETING 2:00 PM  
READING ROOM  
355 East Maple • 644-7935  
Mon. Tues. 9:30-5:45 Wed. & Fri. 9:30-5:00 Thurs. & Fri. 9:30-5:00  
FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST  
FRANKLIN M. ADOWSKI  
Maple at Inkster  
SUNDAY SERVICES 10:30 AM  
SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:30 AM  
WEDNESDAY TESTIMONY MEETING ..... 8:15 PM  
READING ROOM  
4361 Orchard Lake Rd • 851-7440  
Mon-Sat. 10:00-11:00  
All are welcome at the above church services and Reading Rooms. Child care facilities provided Sunday & Wednesday.

**Kirk in the Hills**  
PRESBYTERIAN  
1340 W Long Lake Rd  
MINISTERS  
James F. Anderson  
Robert L. Lindsey  
Worship Service and Church School  
9:30 am and 11:30 am

**FIRST UNITED METHODIST**  
1451 West Maple at Division  
Ministers: James W. Wright • Douglas W. Vernon  
• Evans C. Bentley  
WORSHIP SERVICES  
8:30, 9:30 & 11 AM  
Nursery Care 8:30 AM  
Church School Classes  
Crib-Adult: 9:30 & 11 AM  
8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist  
9:15 and 11:15 a.m. Morning Prayer and Sermon  
Tuesday 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist  
Wednesday 7:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

**SAINT ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
16360 Hubbard Road, Livonia, Michigan 48154  
421-8451  
Wednesday 9:30 a.m. - Holy Eucharist  
Saturday 9:00 a.m. - Holy Eucharist  
Sunday 7:45 a.m. Holy Eucharist  
9:00 a.m. - Christian Education for all ages  
10:00 a.m. - Holy Eucharist  
Sunday Morning - Nursery Care Available  
The Rev. Kenneth G. Davis The Rev. R. Scott Krug  
The Rev. Edward A. King

**HOPE LUTHERAN**  
39200 W. 12 Mile Road  
Farmington Hills  
SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:15 AM  
WORSHIP 10:30 AM  
V.H. Messnering  
Pastor

**Ascension of Christ Lutheran Church**  
16535 W. 14 Mile Road  
Birmingham  
SUNDAY WORSHIP  
9:15 AM  
644-8850  
Morning Worship 10:30 AM

**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
3-112 Grand River  
Farmington 474-6572  
WORSHIP 10 AM  
CHURCH SCHOOL 10 AM  
Nursery Provided  
Minister Charles H. Beyron

**WARD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF LIVONIA**  
Farmington and Six Mile Roads 422-1150  
Worship and Sunday School: 8:30, 10:00 and 11:30 a.m.  
YOUTH SUNDAY  
"GOD'S CALL TO YOU" Dr. Bartlett L. Hess  
Music by Teen Choir • Testimonies by Ward Youth  
7:00 PM  
"WHAT THE WORLD NEEDS NOW...EXAMPLES"  
Mr. Terry Pisk  
Wednesday 7:00 PM: School of Christian Education (Activities for All Ages)  
New! Sunday Service Telecast 8:30 PM, Channel 62  
Sunday Service Broadcast 9:30 AM, WMUZ-FM 103.5  
Nursery Provided at All Services

**ST. ANDREW**  
Lutheran Church, L.C.A.  
6255 Telegraph - North of Maple  
BIRMINGHAM  
9:15 Sunday Church School  
10:30 Sunday Worship  
The Rev. C. W. Ritter, Pastor  
646-3271 646-6119

**ST PAUL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
165 E Square Lake Road  
Bloomfield Hills  
2 blocks east of Woodbury  
Church School - 9:30  
Worship - 10:45  
Nursery Provided  
Dr. David Turan, Pastor

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH BIRMINGHAM**  
1663 West Maple Road  
Ministers:  
F. Morgan Roberts  
C. V. A. Sommers  
Dennis F. Barber  
D. William Michler  
Gerald S. Crawford  
Morning Worship and Church School  
9:30 and 11:15 AM  
Nursery Provided

**THE SALVATION ARMY**  
27500 Shawwassee  
(at New Road)  
SUNDAY SCHEDULE:  
10 AM - Sunday School  
11 AM - Morning Worship  
9 PM - Evening Bible Study  
Call 477-1153 for more information.

**BEVERLY HILLS UNITED METHODIST**  
20030 W. 12 Mile at Evergreen  
648-9777  
WORSHIP: 10 AM  
CHURCH SCHOOL: 10 AM  
(Nursery thru High School)  
Minister: John W. Bray

**CLARENCEVILLE UNITED METHODIST**  
20300 Middlebelt, Livonia 474-3444  
Pastor Gerald Fisher  
8:45 am First Worship Service  
10:00 am The Church School  
11:15 am Second Worship Service  
Nursery Provided at All Services

**HOPE UNITED METHODIST**  
Civic Center Dr.  
at Berg Rd.  
Just east of Telegraph  
Southfield - 366-1620  
SERVICES & NURSERY: 10 AM  
CHURCH SCHOOL: 11:20 AM  
Rev. Terry W. Allen, Pastor

**FRANKLIN COMMUNITY CHURCH**  
On Franklin's Village Green  
626-6006  
WORSHIP 9 & 11:15 AM  
CHURCH SCHOOL & NURSERY: 11:15 AM  
Dr. Samuel F. Stout, Pastor  
United Methodist in Affiliation  
Ministered in Spirit

**Brightmoor Fabernacle**  
26555 Franklin Rd. S. Southfield MI  
at 686 & Telegraph - Just West of Hotchkiss Road  
MIRACLE SERVICES WITH BENNY HINN  
April 25-28  
Sunday: 11:00 AM and 6:30 PM  
Monday-Wednesday: 7:30 PM  
"A Charismatic Church where people of many denominations worship together"  
Thomas E. Trask, Pastor

**FIRST American Baptist CHURCH**  
Bates and Willis  
at Berg Rd.  
Robert G. Middleton  
MINISTERS  
CHURCH SCHOOL  
9:45 AM  
WORSHIP  
11:00 AM  
Nursery  
644-0550

*Because when true belief is in your hearts, spiritual warmth follows you wherever you go.*

