

# Baptists burn their mortgage

North Farmington Baptist Church's mortgage went up in flames while congregants applauded and cheered in the celebration of retiring the church debt.

The ceremony was the highlight of the church's annual meeting which followed the morning worship service Sunday. The church is located in a 23-year-old building at 32500 13 Mile Road.

Dr. Stanley Nicol, who has served as North Farmington's pastor since 1971, presided at the mortgage burning that was accompanied by a trumpet fanfare. He was assisted in the ceremony by the church treasurer, Donald Day, and Donald Pierce and Cynthia Morpew.

Pierce is the retiring board chairman of the congregation, and his position will be taken by Morpew, the first woman to be elected to the church's highest office.

Nicol declared the mortgage retirement "a milestone in the church's 25-year history." He also challenged its 120 members to begin a new era of Christian outreach to the community and to expand its support of Baptist ministries worldwide.

North Farmington was established as a mission church in Farmington in 1957 and was chartered as a member church of the Detroit Association of American Baptist Churches in 1957.

Initially the congregation of 16 families held worship services in the Farmington Senior High School. A six-acre building site on 13 Mile Road one-half mile west of Orchard Lake Road, was acquired in 1958.

Ground was broken for a new church facility in September 1958. The first worship service in the new building was held August 2, 1959.

A large educational wing was added to the original building in 1969 to serve the growing membership.



Dr. Stanley Nicol, at left, pastor of North Farmington Baptist Church, presides over the ceremony which saw the church mortgage burned by its treasurer Donald Day. At right are Cynthia Morpew, newly elected chairman of the church board, and retiring chairman Donald Pierce.

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