

Suburban Life

Loraine McClish editor/477-5450



Monday, October 1, 1984 O&E

(FRA)

Mortgage burning

Congregation celebrates with homecoming

By Loraine McClish
staff writer

The congregation of Orchard United Methodist Church is calling back all former members for a combination homecoming and burn-the-mortgage service Sunday, Oct. 7 in the church on Farmington Road, between 13 and 14 Mile.

"Thanks to modern technology and copying machines we can burn the mortgage twice," said the Rev. Robert Brown, speaking of both the regular 9:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. services. "Throughout the morning the fellowship room will be open and will stay open for as long as anyone wants to stay around."

The church staff has been able to contact about 200 of its earliest members, alerting them to the celebration of being debt-free. The staff hopes that one of the returning members will be

Rocky Pfeiffer, the woman who made the telephone calls to her neighbors in 1946 which brought about the first meeting of the church in the orchard and farm area.

"The name of our church has nothing to do with Orchard Lake or Orchard Lake Road," said Clyde Graham, the first and only lifelong honorary trustee of the church. "It very simply was started in an area of orchards."

"BEING DEBT-free means a little more to us than just not having another bill to pay," Rev. Brown said. "In our denomination no church can be full dedicated until it is debt-free. This marks the reality of the church being fully dedicated to the glory of God and the ministry to the people."

To mark the occasion officially, Dr. Robert Horton, administrative assistant to the bishop of Michigan Area United Methodist Church, will deliver

both sermons.

The mortgage that will be burned Sunday is the second of two mortgages the congregation assumed since the first dozen neighbors met, first in one of their recreation rooms for services, then for a while in a rented room in the now-gone Bond Elementary School on 13 Mile and Orchard Lake Road.

"For a while we held services in a pool hall, where Red Bell Nursery stands now (in the same 13 Mile-Orchard Lake Road area)," Graham said. "The pool hall never made a go of it, though. These people sold out to a machine shop, and when we got to a membership of about 50, we bought the building. It was about the same time we had our Sunday School going pretty well."

Graham remembers in his growing-up days that Sunday Schools would come and go in that area.

"They'd spring up here and there every once in a while, not necessarily Methodists, but somehow none of them stayed; somehow they'd just never catch on," he said.

ORCHARD church was the second Methodist Church founded in the Farmington area and its members received the full support from its sister church in downtown Farmington, First United Methodist Church of Farmington, and its pastor, the Rev. Stanley Stove.

When the congregation grew to 400 another move was called for, this time to rented rooms in Kenbrook Elementary School, and it was there that a \$200,000 fund drive was launched for a large and permanent facility.

That was in 1959. By the time 1965 rolled around it was clear that an educational wing was needed on the church, and that called for another mortgage.

Graham was chairman for the first fund drive, helped design the building and arranged for the purchase of the land that was then owned by his family.

Today the membership stands at 927, with fully a quarter of that number involved in an active music program that includes two hand-bell choirs. The church sponsors Boy Scout troops and opens its doors for Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) meetings. Mayfair Co-op Nursery, though not an integral program of the church, has found a permanent home there. And Farmington Youth Assistance (FYA) will use some of the church rooms this fall for its parenting classes.

Graham, who has been on the church's historical committee since its beginnings, will set up a display of memorabilia for members and guests who visit Sunday.



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

The carved altar and baptismal font in Orchard United Methodist Church were made from walnut trees that once stood in Clyde Graham's back yard. Graham, who has been with the church from its beginnings, is the only member ever declared an honorary life-long trustee.



Rev. Robert Brown (at left), pastor of Orchard United Methodist Church, and Clyde Graham, the church historian, join the church staff and congregation in calling former members back for a celebration of mortgage-burning Sunday.

SAGE calls grandpersons

SAGE (Senior Adults Giving to Education) is inaugurating its third year in Farmington elementary schools with a special get-acquainted meeting at 1 p.m. Friday, Oct. 5 in Farmington Branch Library, 2350 Liberty.

The event is specifically designed to introduce newcomers to the intergenerational program which brings together grandpersons, so called because one does not necessarily have to be a grandparent to participate, with elementary-age children.

SAGE, sponsored by Farmington Area Branch of American Association of University Women (AAUW), Farmington Area PTA Council and Farmington School District, will begin its fall session the week of Oct. 22.

The program runs from four to six weeks and brings the grandpersons, both men and women, into the class-

room to share their time and talents with the students. Spending an hour a week working on needlepoint, or a knitting project, or telling stories, or telling of travels to first and second graders serves as an important link between the two generations.

LOUISE McBROOM, a Farmington resident and an enthusiastic grandperson for the past two years, says of her SAGE experience, "I've spent a lot of time in volunteer work, and never has my return been so great for the amount of time I've given. We all learned from each other."

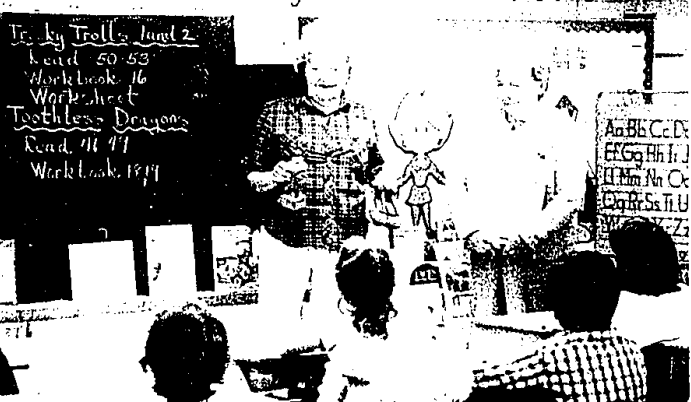
SAGE will continue at Larkshire and Longacre elementary schools. If enough SAGE volunteers come forward this fall, the program will start in another elementary school. AAUW promises that transportation will be provided for any volunteer who needs it.

"We urge seniors to come to the meeting to just hear what it's all about," said Phyllis Cummings, the SAGE chairwoman. "Everyone has something to contribute: sharing a stamp collection, woodworking skills, writing poetry, special interests in music or art. These are just samples of the range of activities that can be shared."

"No formal training is necessary, just the willingness to be with children. If you can't think of something specific to share, our SAGE committee will find a suitable activity for you."

Cummings' SAGE committee for the season is rounded out with Helen Allen, Perle Briggs, Ellen Harper and Jean Moran, all members of AAUW. Moran is also the PTA Council representative on the committee.

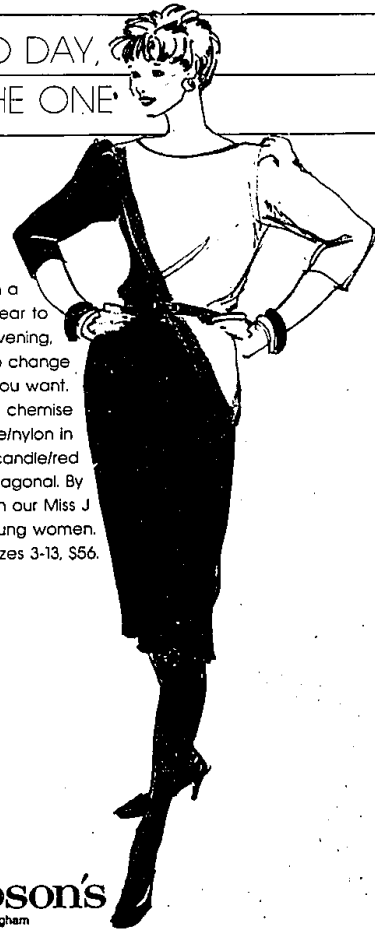
For information, call Briggs, 474-3418.



SAGE volunteers Perle Briggs (at left) and Louise McBroom introduced themselves to youngsters in Larkshire Elementary School. The two, and their counterparts, will be visiting classrooms sharing their skills, or hobbies or stories beginning late this month in the intergenerational program.

NIGHT AND DAY,
IT'S THE ONE

Miss J. count on a dress that you can wear to work and into the evening, belting it to change the look if you want. A tri-toned chemise of acetate/nylon in jet black, candle/red on the diagonal. By Pacino, in our Miss J shop for young women. In sizes 3-13, \$56.



Jacobson's
Birmingham

We welcome Jacobson's Charge Card or The American Express® Card.
We are now open until 6 on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Saturday. Thursday and Friday until 9.