

Barber from page 1A

ner and his sense of humor. "He's still practicing," quips longtime friend and customer Jack Emmett of Farmington Hills. "Don't forget what you're doing back there," Emmett tells Maxwell.

Maxwell smiles and seems to be speaking with Emmett in mind when he says, "You don't want to cut it too short, you can always make it shorter."

Some of Maxwell's happiest times were during his 30 years as owner of his own shop at Grand River and St. Mary's Street in Detroit.

Maxwell ran the business from 1943 until 1973, when he pulled out of the full-time business. At its height, the business employed four other barbers and five beauticians. Maxwell also took on a special clientele.

"At one time, I had 14 hockey players from the Detroit Red Wings coming in," he said. "Alex Delvecchio was one of my customers in '69 and '70. They (other hockey players) ribbed him about being a pretty boy."

Then, as now, Maxwell enjoys meeting new people, something

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*Rev. Brewster Gere
First Presbyterian Church, Farmington Hills*

barbering has always given him. He has plenty of loyal customers, including some who followed him from his Detroit shop.

He often cuts hair for elderly or handicapped customers who are house-bound and can't get to a barber shop.

"I make house calls," he says with a smile.

Maxwell was a widower before meeting his wife of 23 years, Elma. She too, had lost her first spouse.

Maxwell has not been slowed by the stroke he suffered in 1991, and continues to inspire his friends.

"He has a rich history," said the Rev. Brewster Gere, minister of the First Presbyterian Church in Farmington Hills. "He has

great insight into human nature. He knows life and has a real dignity about himself."

Gere, who became minister of the church about the time Maxwell joined the congregation six years ago, said his friend's talents go well beyond cutting hair.

"He has his own kind of ministry," Gere said. "He takes his ministry to wherever you are."

And although the majority of his customers are older, he still specializes in giving kids their first hair cut.

"A lot of grandparents bring the kids in," he said. "You just have to take time and win 'em over."

And watching Maxwell work his charm as he works his scissors, it's not hard to see how he wins them over.

Emergency from page 1A

Howard, who also is the investigations chairman for the Farmington-area Goodfellows, knows how to discern need.

Stories come flooding back as Howard recalls former recipients. Sometimes teachers themselves or parent groups donate money, helping to keep the fund balance intact.

Most situations are just temporary, Howard said. Recently Howard learned that a child might be kept home from school for a week because he didn't have the \$2.50 needed for a field trip.

In order to avoid embarrassment about not having the money, the parent considered keeping the child home for a week so that he would also be spared any dis-

Some families who were helped by the Goodfellows last year have been evicted. Families in which the white collar breadwinner lost his job this year have also been added to the poverty rolls.

cussion of the field trip.

When children don't come to school, it isn't always because they don't want to, Howard said.

When the fund began, one mother kept her child home to assist her with the ironing she took in to make money. In another case, an older child was kept home to care for a younger sibling so that the mother could work.

The economy continues to take its toll on families, Howard said. Some families who were helped by

the Goodfellows last year, for example, have been evicted. Families in which the white collar breadwinner lost his job this year, have also been added to the poverty rolls, Howard said.

Those wishing to contribute to the Farmington Emergency Fund may send checks to Fyhill's Home at Farmington Community Schools, 30416 Shilwaukee, Farmington 48336, or to Lanigan at Larkshire Elementary School, 23000 Tuck, Farmington 48336.

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