Man charged with breaking into nearby churches

By Tim Smith
State Waiter
The Rev. Jerome Smith feels relieved.
That's due to the arrest, an aubsequent arraignment Tuesday in 48th District Court, of Carl David Reichert. A string of church burglaries since April in Oakland and Macomb counties led to Reichert's arrest.
Smith's West Bloomfield United Methodist Church was among the victime r- twice.
"For a while I thought we were donating computers to the wider world," said Smith. "I'm sure we churches were easy torgets."
In April, a computer valued at \$1,500 was stolen from the Walnut Lake Road church. The replacement system, also worth

mingham in Bloomfield Hills. Computers also were taken from both churches, with a television and VCR taken on the second trip to Church of Our Savior.

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Not guilty pleas were entered on behalf of Reichert, who was not accompanied by an attorney at the proceedings. Ninowski scheduled a preliminary examination for 8:30 a.m. Aug. 19, before 48th District Judge Edward Avadenka. A \$10,000 cash/surety bond on each charge was set.

Charges are expected to be filed against Reichert this week for church break-ins in Rochester Hills and Bloomfield Township. Reichert is also charged with the June 30 theft of a 1990 Ford Escort that ultimately led to his

Since then, according to Re-ichert at his arraignment, he's

arrest Saturday night in Detroit, Fuhs said.

If found guilty, Reichert could face up to 10 years in prison for each of the break-in charges and a five-year term for car theft, Ninowski said.

Triggering the string of charges was Reichert's arrest Saturday in Detroit's 11th Precinct. Police, acting on the car theft werrant originating from West Bloomfield, stopped the stolen Escort, driven by Reichert.

Reichert, m June 30, drove a female acquesintance to work (located on Orchard Lake Road) but drove the car away without hep remission and did not return it, Fuhs said.

Since then, according to Re-

There were indications at some crime scenes that the thief pried or used force to gain entry into the churches. Sgt. Dean Hess, who led the township's investigation,

said doors often were left unlocked. He didn't know whether
the defendant had cased the
buildings.
Church of The Shepherd King
was a third Weat Bloomfield
break-in target, although that
one, also in July, was unsuccessful, Puhs said.
During the arraignment, it was
brought out that Reichert has had
earlier problems with the law; he
is on probation from a previous
larceny by conversion under \$tiot
charge out of Clare County, which
he pleaded guilty to on Jan. 4; he
was charged with child neglect in
a Pontlac court.
Pastor Murray Blackadar, at
the Church of Our Savior in West
Bloomfield, declined to comment
Tuesday about Reichert's arrest.

League answers government questions

Looking for information about state government? The League of Women Voters has a toll-free tele-phone service (1-800-292-8823) that may be helpful. The league's Citizen Informa-tion Center in Lansing offers to

help people find out about such things as pending legislation, the state constitution, election laws, voting regulations or tax informa-

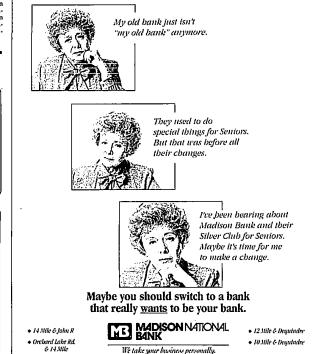
tion.
The telephone is answered from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. weekdays.

The telephone service is paid for by the league's education fund. The League of Women Vot-ers is a non-profit organization that works to keep voters interest-ed and informed about govern-mental issues.





28235 Five Mile Livonia 525-5625



(313) 548-2900



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