

'He'll be missed'

Christ Church sadly accepts rector's firing

By Greg Kowalski
STAFF WRITER

"It was sad but it had to be done," said Arthur Hadley, administrator for the Episcopal Diocese of Michigan following the removal last week of Christ Church Cranbrook Rector Almus Thorp Jr.

Thorp, 52, was fired last week for adultery involving several women over a period of years.

"It was necessary to take this action because I received information of sexual misconduct which has been confirmed," the Right Rev. R. Stewart Wood of the diocese wrote to the Episcopal clergy.

"Unfortunately these allegations are true," Thorp wrote in a letter to parishioners. "I am guilty of repeated sexual misconduct. I deeply regret the damage which my behavior has caused my victims. In each case I have tried to make amends and pray that each is on the road to recovery."

"How tragic, how sad, how ironic that I, your rector and champion of the Biblical injunction to 'name the truth,' have been keeping a terrible secret about my own behavior, behavior that is not only professionally reprehensible given the implicit trust that each of you has placed in me, but behavior which is dishonest, exploitative of women and utterly contrary to all that we have been doing to make Christ Church

Cranbrook a safe place for everyone.

Christ Church Cranbrook has about 3,000 members and the mood there was one of stunned sadness following the removal of the popular rector.

'It's a shock'

"People are reacting to it as you would expect them to react. It's a shock. He will really be sadly missed," said Christ Church communications director Karen Bota.

"Since Almus came to Christ Church there has been a resurgence of energy that there wasn't before," said Bota. "He taught parishioners not to be content to just live in the building . . . but to reach out."

Since being appointed rector in 1981, Thorp expanded the Bloomfield Hills parish's outreach programs, helping to found several community organizations and participating in others.

Among his accomplishments, he was co-founder and served as president of the Cranbrook Fence Foundation, which helps raise construction funds for various peace-keeping organizations. He helped expand into Oakland County the Detroit-based Focus:HOPE organization, which helps support and provide job training for needy people.

He also was an original member of the Birmingham-Bloomfield Task Force on Race Relations and Ethnic Diversity.



Almus Thorp Jr.

He was a founder of the Pontiac Area Transitional Housing program, which provides shelter and self-improvement programs for homeless women and children. And he served with the Suburban-Urban Clergy Conference, the Advisory Committee for St. George's College in Jerusalem, the Economic Justice Implementation Committee of the national Episcopal Church and was founder and first president of the Episcopal Clergy Association of Michigan.

Leader for homeless

Under his direction, Christ Church Cranbrook was the first church in Bloomfield Hills to host the South Oakland Shelter for the homeless program. He was

one of four clergy elected to represent the diocese of Michigan at the national Episcopal General Convention in 1985, 1988 and 1991. And he spearheaded two successful capital campaigns for the parish.

"His whole attitude was to make the parish less dominated by the clergy and have more parishioner involvement," Bota said.

Shirley Bryant, community relations director for the Birmingham school district, served with Thorp on the race relations task force. She said she was saddened by his dismissal.

"He broadened the understanding of the members of Christ Church Cranbrook about the need to be involved in the community with those less fortunate," Bryant said.

"I was very saddened," said Wanda Brown, director of programs for PATH. "He has been very active in the Pontiac community. He will be deeply missed."

The Rev. J. Donald Waring has been appointed to replace Thorp, who is being allowed to stay in the rectory while he recovers from hip replacement surgery. Earlier this year he had informed parishioners that he and his wife, Joanne, had separated. She has since moved to Massachusetts.

Thorp was Christ Church Cranbrook's fifth rector since it was founded in 1924.

Don't Waste A New York Minute In Boston.



Preparing for the Nov. 6 SAT? THE PRINCETON REVIEW

The Princeton Review can help you achieve your best score.

According to the College Board, a student who scores 500 on the SAT math and verbal can expect a 10 point improvement in score.

A 1000 College Board score is the national average. Princeton Review students score 100 points higher.

Over the last eight years, four independent studies of the Princeton Review have shown average score increases ranging from 110-160 points! If you're looking for a better score, call us!

Anyone can claim great score improvements, but proving them is harder. Before you sign up with the SAT Reviewer, ask for the workbooks of these score improvements.

The Princeton Review is not affiliated with the College Board or Princeton University.

BRANDEIS Michigan's Largest Used Book Sale

1/2 PRICE SALE Tues., Aug. 17 & Wed., Aug. 18

USED BOOK SALE

12-12 Mall
Telegraph at 12 Mile Rd. • Southfield
10 a.m. - 9 p.m. Daily
Sunday - Mall Hours

Sponsored by GREATER DETROIT CHAPTER BRANDEIS UNIVERSITY NATIONAL WOMEN'S COMMITTEE Proceeds benefit BRANDEIS UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

ESTÉE LAUDER Stress Relief Eye Mask

ESTÉE LAUDER Rich Results Hydrating Cleanser

LAST WEEK!

A BAGS EXCLUSIVE GIFT. A LITTLE NAVY. A LOT OF LUXURIES. SEVEN OF OUR MOST FAMOUS FORMULAS. SUPERSTARS FROM ESTÉE LAUDER, WORTH \$85.

YOUR GIFT: TO TAKE HOME WITH ANY ESTÉE LAUDER PURCHASE OF \$15 OR MORE: WHITE LINEN PARFUM SPRAY; ALL-DAY LIPSTICK; FRUITION TRIPLE REACTIVATING COMPLEX; MORE THAN MASCARA MOISTURE-BINDING FORMULA; RICH RESULTS HYDRATING CLEANSER; SIGNATURE EYESHADOW DUO, AND STRESS RELIEF EYE MASK PACKETTE, ALL TUCKED IN A NAVY FAUX LIZARD COSMETIC BAG.

THE 8-MINUTE GIFT. MAKE AN APPOINTMENT FOR A COMPLIMENTARY MAKEUP AND SKINCARE CONSULTATION. WHEN YOU COME BACK, RECEIVE A 10-DAY SUPPLY OF ADVANCED NIGHT REPAIR AND A NAVY FAUX LIZARD COIN PURSE TO MATCH THE BAG ABOVE. COSMETIC COLLECTIONS.

OFFER GOOD WHILE SUPPLIES LAST. ONE TO A CUSTOMER, PLEASE.

The Somerset Collection, Big Beaver at Coallidge, Troy, 643-9000. Open weekdays 10 to 9; Saturday 'til 6; Sunday, 12 to 5:30.
Fairlane Town Center, Dearborn, 336-3070. Open weekdays 10 to 9; Saturday 'til 7; Sunday, 12 to 6.

SAKS FIFTH AVENUE
ESTÉE LAUDER

Fly The Only Nonstop To London.

If you're planning a trip to London, why waste time waiting for a connecting flight in Boston or some other east coast airport? Fly Delta's daily nonstop instead — the only nonstop from Detroit to London.

Our 6:55 p.m. departure lets you put in a full day of business before leaving. And because Delta's London flight is nonstop, you arrive in London early enough for a morning meeting.

For more information or reservations, see your Travel Agent. Or call Delta at 1-800-241-4141. For the only London service that won't waste your time.

DELTA AIRLINES

© 1993 Delta Air Lines, Inc.