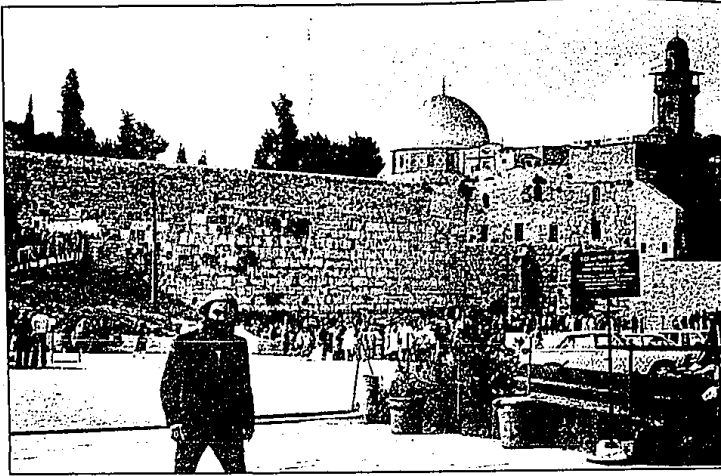


**Sacred site:**  
Visitors will find rolled slips of papers, filled with prayers, tucked in the crevices of the Wailing Wall in Jerusalem.



# Minister leads trip to Holy Land

By Sue Mason  
STAFF WRITER

As the Rev. Dr. Wilbert Gough sees it, the peace agreement between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization is "nothing less than a miracle."  
"They haven't been too friendly over the centuries and to now at least shake hands . . .," said Gough. "It's something we've all prayed for — Jews, Muslims, Christians — for many years. Although it is the beginning, it is a step in the right direction. It's with prayer and faith that peace might come in a greater way to the entire Middle East."

Gough's opinion isn't unique; it's shared by people worldwide. But for the Plymouth resident, the changes taking place in the Middle East will make for an exciting time when he and his wife, Florence, lead a tour to the Holy Land in late February.

For the Goughs, such tours are part of their ministry of helping people to walk "where Jesus walked" and feel the inspiration of the biblical lands and historic places, "many of which are pretty much as they were in the time of Christ." The Goughs have led eight tours to the Holy Land, the last in 1979, and tours on the journeys of Paul the Apostle and to other parts of the world.

**First trip**  
Gough's first trip to Israel came in 1958 when he went with the Rev. Dr. Frank Field, pastor of the First United Methodist



Might be: Gordon's Garden Tomb is a site that some archeologists believe is similar to the tomb Christ was buried in.

Church of Mount Clemens. They stayed for five weeks in the city of Bethlehem and took day trips throughout the country. He returned home and told his wife he couldn't wait until they saved enough money for both to go.

It took 11 years, but they made the trip in 1969 and eventually led tours there through 1979. The tension in the area forced them to make guided trips to Greece, Rome, Japan, to the Passion Play in Germany three times and on the journey of Paul.

"A lot has happened since then and I'd like to go back," said

Gough. "Sometimes people have a fear of the Holy Land, but I've been to Hawaii, Japan and all over the world, but by far the place to be is Israel."

Their return trip will be a 10-day excursion, leaving New York on Feb. 28. The trip has a theme of "Jesus: His Life, His Time, His Land, His Hebrew Faith," and will take in such cities as Jericho, Jerusalem and Bethlehem and the Sea of Galilee. Cost is \$1,399 and includes round-trip airfare, accommodations, two meals a day and guided sightseeing.

The Goughs will have tour members get together several times before the trip to get acquainted and discuss such things as how to dress, what to take and what is expected of tourists — "how to be good guests and not to be the 'best image of America' — in the Holy Land.

On their return, the group gets together again to share fellowship, enjoy a meal together and show their slides and scrapbooks.

"It's sort of a follow-up to reinforce and they relive their experiences of the journey," Gough said. While in the Holy Land, the travelers will visit the River Jordan where they will have a chance to renew their baptism, meditate

in the Garden of Gethsemane, say a prayer at the Wailing Wall in Jerusalem and worship at the Garden's Garden Tomb. Revered by archeologists, the tomb could be the site where Jesus was buried or a similar site. Gough said. This is an optional trip to Masada for \$35 and an opportunity to earn up to two hours of college or seminary credits through the University of Oklahoma City by attending lectures given throughout the trip.

The Goughs work with Educational Opportunity Inc., a Lakeland, Fla.-based travel agency. The agency was established by a Methodist group 20 years ago as a non-profit Christian tour operator.

## Wide appeal

The couple's tours attract young people on up to those in their 80s. They count pastors, church leaders and people who want the educational experiences of all denominations among those who have joined their tours.

Born in Oklahoma, Gough grew up in Texas and served in the U.S. Navy during World War II. He studied at Eastern College, Temple University and Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary, all in Philadelphia, Pa.

He has pastored at churches in Mount Clemens and Milford and at Grand River Baptist Church in Livonia. He currently serves as chaplain of the Detroit Baptist Manor in Farmington Hills, a senior citizen complex with more than 600 residents.

The Goughs have two children, W. Donald Gough Jr. of New Jersey and Diane Fowler of Midlothian, Va., and six grandchildren.

"We believe that Christian travel is an extension of our ministry," Gough said. "We have had many pastors accompany us and return to their church people all enthused. I have often said that a tour to the Holy Land is equivalent to a semester in a college or seminary."

Those interested in the tour can obtain a brochure by calling the Goughs at 455-9366. Reservations must be made no later than Dec. 31.

## RELIGION CALENDAR

Items for the religion calendar should be submitted no later than noon Friday for the following Thursday's edition.  
You can also obtain current information about events, speakers and service schedules, etc., by calling 901-4750 or 553-2048 on a Touch-Tone phone. You must have your four-digit church I.D. ready. For more information about the service, call Bryan at 953-2297.

**■ SALAD LUNCHEON**  
The women of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church will present a salad luncheon, followed by a mission speaker from Pakistan, at 11 a.m. Thursday, Oct. 28, at the church, 26701 Joy, Dearborn Heights. For more information, call the church at 274-3820 between 9 a.m. and noon weekdays.

**■ RUMMAGE SALES**  
The Women's League of St. Paul Lutheran Church will have a rummage and bake sale 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Thursday and Friday, Oct. 28-29, and a bake sale 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 30, at the church, 20805 Middlebelt, Livonia.

Plymouth United Assembly of God will have a rummage and bake sale 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursday and Friday, Oct. 28-29, and a bake sale 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 30, at the church, 46500 N. Territorial, between Sheldon and Beck roads.

The Ladies Guild of Christ the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Canton, will have its fall rummage and bake sale 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday and Friday, Oct. 28-29, at the church, 42650 Cherry Hill, just west of Lilley. Aid Association for Lutherans Branch 169 will match money raised for the missions. For more information, call 981-0286.

The Ladies Christian Fellowship of Hosanna Tabor Church will have its fall rummage sale 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 30, in the gymnasium of the church school, 9600 Levee, Redford. For more information, call the church at 937-2424.

**■ CLOWN MINISTRY**  
A special weekend of clown ministry will be held at Lola Valley Methodist Church, 10175 Delaware at Piquette, Redford. The Rev. Floyd Shaffer will present a program on the history and theology of clowning at 7 p.m. Friday, Oct. 29, followed by a daylong workshop Saturday, Oct. 30, sponsored by Clowns Around Detroit. (Pre-registration is required by calling Rich or Marilyn Burrous at 255-4297 and the cost is \$20.) At 11 a.m. Sunday, Oct. 31, Shaffer will conduct a church service. For more information, call 255-6330.

**■ EDUCATION RENEWAL**  
Public Square will present "The Renewal of Public Education: A Christian Perspective" Friday and Saturday, Oct. 25-30, at Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church, 14175 Farmington Road, Livonia.

Dr. James Skillen, executive director of the Association for Public Justice, will speak on "Biblical Wisdom and Public Justice: Good Mix or Bad Mix?" at 7 p.m. Friday, followed by a question and answer session. On Saturday, he will speak on "A Short History of American Education: The Good, the Bad and the Ugly" at 9 a.m. then "The Crisis in the Classroom: Its Roots and Fruits" at 10:45 a.m.

At 1:30 p.m., he will debate the issue of "The Public School: Mission Field or Battlefield" with Tim Philippart, pastor of the Church of Christ in Holland, Mich., and a member of the Holland Board of Education. The program will close with a panel discussion. The cost is \$15 and includes lunch. For more information, call 483-6600.

**■ BLOOD DRIVE**  
A Red Cross blood drive will be held 2-8 p.m. Friday, Oct. 29, at Ward Presbyterian Church, 17000 Farmington Road, at Six Mile in Livonia. Those interested in donating should call Judy at 482-2705.

**■ PRAYER WALK '93**  
Several area churches will participate in Prayer Walk '93, a march and prayer rally for the city of Detroit and the homeless. The march will start at 10 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 30, followed by the prayer rally at 11 a.m. at the Detroit Rescue Mission.

Participating churches include Main Street Southern Baptist of Canton; Livonia Baptist, Mt. Hope Congregational, Parkview Baptist, Peace Lutheran, Newburg United Methodist, Christ the King Lutheran, Holy Cross Lutheran, Ward Presbyterian, Salem United Church of Christ and Calvary Missionary, all of Livonia; Lakepointe Community and Trinity Presbyterian, both of Plymouth; and Temple Baptist, Covenant Community, Aldersgate United Methodist, Trinity Church of the Brethren and Christ Lutheran, all of Redford.

The rally will feature Ernie Harwell and pastor Edgar Vann Jr. and offers an opportunity for the Detroit community to join together and show concern for the city and the people who live in it.

**■ OLD FASHION DAY**  
The Church of God of Prophecy will have an Old Fashion Day Sunday, Oct. 31. The morning service will be at 10 a.m., followed by dinner and singing in the "Lakeside" hall. Participants should wear their "Sunday-go-to-meeting" duds (overalls, bibs, bonnets). The church is at 28568 Pardo, Garden City. For more information, call 427-5524.

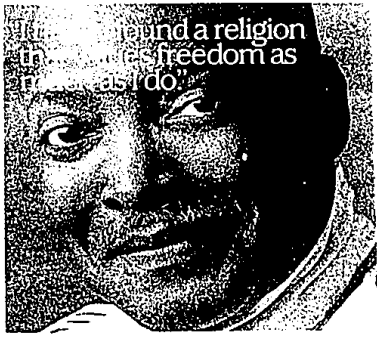
**■ HARVEST SUNDAY**  
The Garden City Christian Center will have a special worship service at 10 a.m. for Harvest Sunday/Friend Day Sunday, Oct. 31. A Sports New Testament will be given to each person in attendance, and a nursery and children's ministry will be provided.

The center will also have a Halloween party, 5:30-8:30 p.m. at the center, 33111 Ford, just west of Venoy, Garden City. The festival, for children up to age 11, will be carnival style, with games, a petting farm and fun for everyone. No scary costumes will be permitted. For more information, call 421-2885.

**■ QUEST SPEAKER**  
The Rev. Robert Klug will be the speaker at 10:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 31, at the Livonia Assembly of God, 8301 E. Seven Mile, Livonia. Klug is a traveling evangelist as well as pastor of a church in northern

See RELIGION, 6H

## Your Invitation To Worship



"As a child, there was never any question that I would go to church. My problem was, once I got there, there was never any opportunity to question—the minister says it, it's gospel."

"So I grew up thinking all churches were like that, and that's why I gave up on religion—organized religion in that it takes us that one set of beliefs, but and it does not want to understand, never has, but it wants to explore, most of all with other people."

Everyone—especially people like me who regard that authoritarian approach—needs to know Unitarian Universalists exist. I mean, questioning our beliefs and our blasphemy here is a practice of humanity."

THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS  
For more information, call 1-800-464-0336

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A Place for Caring...  
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Bureau: 1628 • 472-8114  
9:45 am Sunday School  
11:00 am Worship Celebration

## MORAL PERSPECTIVES



REV. DAVID STRONG

What is a trilobite? I asked this question of a group of children. One of them knew what a trilobite is. He said, "A trilobite is a fossil. Not only is it a fossil, but it is the most numerous animal that has ever lived on this planet. Also, as far as we know, it is the first animal which had vision. Although it is now extinct, it rained the bottoms of the seas of our entire planet for 330 million years.

It is extinct because it did not fit in with the changing universe. The other day I met a man who no longer fits into the changing planet earth. He told me that the state should execute anyone who kills another person. He went on to say that the nations in the Arab world are right. If a person steals something, the state should cut off his fingers. This man went on to say that he believed in an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.

In this day of crime and fear,

## ■ God is slowly but inexorably showing, pushing, and inviting us to discover that we are all ONE.

this man's view is a majority opinion. I thought to myself, "Sir, do you realize what is going on in Bosnia and Somalia? I respect this man as a child of God with his own experiences of life. But, I could only think, I am talking to a trilobite. I am talking to an individual who expresses the view of the past. It is a past which no longer works.

This man takes me back to the stories of the wars of the Hitlites, Amorites and Canaanites. This man takes me back to the story of "Jurassic Park." His way of treating violence with more violence no longer works. God has a new plan for this planet.

God is doing a new thing. God is slowly but inexorably showing, pushing, and inviting us to discover that we are all one. The planet is one. We are one with the creator. We are one with the creatures of the planet earth. We are one with each other.

Buckminster Fuller was asked what the world would be like if we all knew that we are one with each

other and one with the planet. He hesitated for a moment. His answer was one word, "Beautiful." The new issue is not race, religion, or sex, or even economic differences. The new issue is whether we are all one. The new issue is whether we are without hate, without fear, without separation from God, and others. The new issue is to be without the need to defend oneself or to seek vengeance, or to seek advantage over another, or even to seek advantage over the creation.

In Romans 8:22, Paul says that the whole creation is groaning as it awaits adoption, transformation as sons and daughters of God. Over and over again, we see in the Bible this idea that we are one with God and with each other. It is the theme of Jesus. It is the theme of Paul. I have discovered that when I look at the world, or even at the Bible with this pre-set image, we are one, that everything is changed.

Human beings who walk about

believing that we are all one, with God and with each other, these human beings are a new species upon this earth. The majority are trilobites. They do not understand. They are willing to live in an old system of death, dominance and destruction of the planet. Yet as with all changes in evolution, the new minority eventually replaces the old extinct class.

Trilobites were very advanced for their day. After some 330 million years, they were replaced by a minority movement of new species. Today, there are already those who envision a Planetary Pentecost.

There are moments when we see evidence of such a reality even today. In this Planetary Pentecost we will hear, feel, touch, and celebrate this oneness of all God's creation. It will herald our opportunity to be the new human species in God's eternal purpose.

The Rev. David Strong is pastor of Central United Methodist Church in Detroit. If you have a question or comment, call him at 963-2047, mailbox number 1878, on a touch-tone phone.