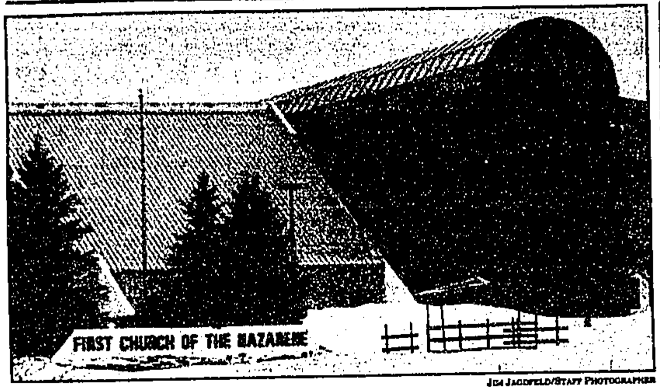

JIM JAGDFELD/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Celebrate: *The stained glass cross which dominates the east end of the atrium is a landmark along I-275 for Detroit First Church of the Nazarene, which is celebrating its 75th anniversary.*

Local Church of Nazarene to mark 75th anniversary

A gathering of Nazarenes from throughout the United States will take place the first weekend in April in Farmington Hills to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the founding of the Detroit First Church of the Nazarene.

The celebration will include a banquet at 6 p.m. Saturday, April 1, and a worship celebration the next day led by Jim Diehl, general superintendent, one of the international leaders of the one million-member denomination.

Invitations have been sent out to past members, staff and pastors to join in the celebration. The church began Easter Sunday 1920 in Detroit.

A yearlong celebration, which was kicked off by a series of sermons by the Rev. Holland Lewis, senior pastor, has the theme of "Giving Our Past a Future."

An anniversary logo has been designed that features an image of the stained glass cross which is at the east end of the atrium of the church. The logo will be used for 75th anniversary banners to decorate the west entrance and parking lots of the church, which is at the corner of Eight Mile and Haggerty on the borders of Farmington Hills, Northville, Livonia and Novi.

"Lifting people to new levels of life is more than a church theme," Lewis said. "It is the practical results that we witness in the lives of those drawn to the Savior through the shared ministry of pastor and people.

"Changed lives continues to be the supreme tradition of this congregation. My own heart is stirred each Lord's Day as I look into the faces of countless individuals who have experienced the transforming power of Jesus Christ," he said.

About 750 people are expected for the celebration, according to Jean Staten, one of the celebration organizers and secretary at the church. People are expected from Kansas, Florida and all over the United States, Staten said.

Elmer Kaufman, a Fuller Brush salesman, met with 12 other people to organize the Church of the Nazarene in Detroit on Easter Sunday 1920. After meeting in homes, the first place of worship was a tabernacle bought from the U.S. government and moved to a site near Joy and Grand River. The first pastor was the Rev. Arthur Leach. The early leaders of the church who followed were the Rev. Martin S. Cooper, the Rev. Howard W. Jerrett and Orval J. Neese.

During the 10-year pastorate of the Rev. Selden Dee Kelley, financial giving increased 400 percent, and Kelley held four evangelistic campaigns each year, advanced growth in stewardship and developed a radio ministry reaching three states.

When Kelley left to become president of Olivet Nazarene College in Kankakee, Ill., E.W. Martin, who led First Church from 1948-61 before moving on to serve as Eastern Michigan District superintendent, was called on to lead.

Under Martin's leadership, a larger place of worship was built on Fenkell near Grand River and church membership increased to 880 by 1961. The Sunday school became the second largest among non-college churches in the denomination.

In the late 1960s, a child care center, kindergarten center, television ministry and concert ministries were added. The congregation moved to its current site in the mid-1980s.

The church, which has around 800 members, is at Eight Mile and Haggerty in Farmington Hills, but has a Northville address. It is a 72,000-square-foot building, dedicated on June 3, 1990. The main floor allows for 900 worshipers with room for 500 more in the balcony. The balcony includes a no-fragrance section for people sensitive to perfume, cologne and aftershaves.

For information, call the church office at (810) 348-7600. The banquet is open to the public, but reservations are required. Tickets are $5 per person and $20 per family and may be ordered by calling the office. The church is at 21260 Haggerty Road, Northville 48167.

RELIGION CALENDAR

Items for the religion calendar should be submitted no later than noon Friday for the next Thursday's issue.

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN
St. John Lutheran Church, 23225 Gill Road, Farmington Hills, offers "A Sudden Clearing of the Eyes," a series of Lenten midweek services at 7:30 p.m. each Wednesday through April 5, based on C.S. Lewis' "The Screwtape Letters." Sunday worship with Holy Communion is at 8:30 and 11 a.m. Sunday School for all ages is at 9:40 a.m. A nursery is provided.

NORTH FARMINGTON COMMUNITY CHURCH
North Farmington Community Church, 32500 West 13 Mile Road, Farmington Hills, plans a "Building a Life Worth Loving" series. The programs include: 10 a.m. Sunday, March 26, "Slowing Down the Speed of Life"; 10 a.m. Sunday, April 2, "Healing Your Hurts"; 10 a.m. Sunday, April 9, "Relationships That Last"; 7:30 p.m. Thursday, April 13, "Remembering the Last Supper"; 10 a.m. Sunday, April 16, "God's Promises to You," 11:30 a.m. Sunday, April 16, Easter egg hunt for children. (810) 626-6900.

SALEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Salem United Church of Christ plans "One Great Hour of Sharing," Sunday, March 26, at the church, 33424 Oakland Ave., Farmington. (810) 474-6880

CHURCH OF GOD
Farmington Hills Church of God, 25717 Power Road (between 10 and 11 Mile roads), Farmington Hills. Sunday school is at 9:45 a.m., worship service is at 11 a.m. Nursery care is available. Call (810) 477-9144 for more information.

HOPE LUTHERAN
Members of Hope Lutheran Church in Farmington Hills are participating in a 50-day spiritual adventure titled "Facing down our fears: finding courage when anxiety gripe the heart." The series will be held at the church through Easter Sunday, April 16. It is sponsored by the Chapel of the Air Ministries. Hope Church is at 39200 W. 12 Mile, Farmington Hills, (810) 553-7170.

CHARISMATIC PRAYER
A charismatic prayer group meets at 6 p.m. Sundays in Patio Classroom 1 on the ground floor of the University Center at Madonna University, Schoolcraft and Levan roads, Livonia. For more information, call Shawn at (313) 464-9057 or Julie at (313) 464-4566.

A group also meets at 7:30 p.m. Thursdays for scripture and singing at St. Edith Church, 15089 Newburgh, Livonia. The group meets in the church meeting room. (Use rear entrance 2.) Call Sandy at (313) 462-2243.

PINE HILL CONGREGATIONAL
Pine Hill Congregational Church, 4160 Middlebelt, West Bloomfield, has Sunday worship services at 10:30 a.m. Nursery care and Sunday school are provided during the service. For information, call (810) 626-2737.

TEMPLE ISRAEL
Temple Israel, 5725 Walnut Lake Road, will have services 7:30 a.m. weekdays, 10:30 a.m. Saturdays, (Rebbe's Tish at 9:30 a.m.), 9 a.m. Sundays and 8 p.m. Fridays.

M. Robert Syme, rabbi, Harold S. Loss, rabbi, Paul M. Yedwab, rabbi, Joshua Bennett, rabbi, and Harold Orbach, cantor.

Friday evening, Syme will deliver the sermon; Saturday morning, Yedwab will deliver the sermon.

WEST BLOOMFIELD BIBLE
West Bloomfield Bible Church, 4900 Orchard Lake Road, West Bloomfield. Church: (810) 681-3467, Parsonage: (810) 738-5260. Sunday school, 10 a.m.; worship service, 11 a.m. Sunday (evening, 6 p.m.); Wednesday prayer meeting, 7 p.m.

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Saturday, April 1 ..... 10 am-7 pm
Sunday, April 2 ...... Noon-5 pm
Preview Party...$50
Thursday, March 30
6 - 9 pm
Lectures...$15
"Sewing Tools," Friday, March 31, 9-10 am
"Quimper," Saturday, April 1, 9-10 am
"Jade," Sunday, April 2, 11-Noon
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