

# CROP from page B7

treadmill five times a week, will be making his second appearance at the Birmingham/Bloomfield walk.

"It saves a workout at home, and it's for a good cause," quipped the radio host and member of Franklin Community Church.

But Puritan puts his comedy aside when discussing his reasons for walking the 6.2 miles to help feed the hungry. "I listen to Rev. Cheatham's sermons on going out into the world and helping others," he said, "and I try to do what I can to live them."

The Rev. Dick Cheatham, pastor of Franklin Community Church, United Methodist, has been involved in CROP walks for 20 years.

"If we can walk so others can eat, then the walking is good for us and the eating is good for them," said Cheatham, a Franklin resident. "And for those who support us, all of them have a little extra money and they feel better about spending it."

Seventy-five percent of the Birmingham/Bloomfield CROP walk funds will help Church World Service global projects; the remaining 25 percent will benefit Focus Hope and Baldwin Family Services and New Bethel Outreach Ministries.

The Rev. Lou Westfall of Beverly Hills, associate pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Birmingham, is chairing the Birmingham/Bloomfield walk. Volunteers from participating churches plan the community event, walk for pledges, conduct registration and rest sites, and serve as crossing guards and van drivers to ensure safety.

"It's a way you can translate your feelings of compassion into action that actually does some good," said Westfall, who has been involved with CROP walks since her childhood.

Other participating churches include Northbrook Presbyterian Church in Beverly Hills; First Baptist Church, Holy Name Roman Catholic Church and St. James Episcopal Church, all in Birmingham; Bloomfield Hills United Methodist Church, Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church, Christ Church Cranbrook and Congregational Church of Birmingham, all in Bloomfield Hills; Pine Hill Congregational Church in West Bloomfield; and Crossroads Presbyterian Church in White Lake.

Clarkston's CROP walk on Oct. 6 is being co-chaired by the Rev. Bonnie Laudeman, associate pastor of Clarkston Community Church of God. More than 100 walkers from five churches are expected to register at 1 p.m.

and begin their 10K route at 2 p.m. at Calvary Evangelical Lutheran Church, 6805 Bluegrass. Their goal is to raise \$5,000.

Clarkston's CROP walk on Oct. 6 will begin and end at Calvary Evangelical Lutheran Church, 6805 Bluegrass. Lead walkers from the host church include the Rev. Robert Walters, the Rev. Todd von Gunten and the church's eighth and ninth grade confirmation classes. Co-chairwoman is Bonnie Laudeman, associate pastor of Clarkston Community Church of God. More than 100 walkers from five churches are expected to register at 1 p.m. and begin their 10K route at 2 p.m. to raise \$5,000.

Waterford's fourth annual CROP walk, co-chaired by the Rev. Susan Bennett Stiles of Central United Methodist Church, is also scheduled for Oct. 6. Registration is set for 1:30 p.m. with the 10K walk beginning at 2 p.m. at Bethel United Church of Christ, 6650 Elizabeth Lake Road. Sixty walkers from 12 churches are expected to take to the sidewalks to raise \$5,000.

The Rochester Community Band will kick off the Greater Rochester Area CROP Walk, which will tread a path through Rochester on Sunday, Oct. 13. Walkers will register at 1:30 p.m. and begin the 10K walk at 2 p.m. at St. Paul United Methodist Church, 620 Romeo Road.

Unique to the Rochester walk is a collaborative effort between religious institutions, businesses and organizations. More than 350 walkers are hoping to raise \$20,000, with 75 percent of the funds allocated for global relief and the remaining 25 percent for Rochester Neighborhood House, New Bethel Outreach Ministries in Pontiac and FOCUS: Hope in Detroit. This year's celebrity walker is State Rep. Penny Crissman of Rochester.

Other churches involved in the third annual Greater Rochester Area Walk are Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church in Auburn Hills; First Congregational Church, St. Andrew Roman Catholic Church, St. Phillip's Episcopal Church and University Presbyterian Church, all in Rochester; and Abiding Presence Lutheran Church, St. Luke United Methodist Church and St. Mary of the Hills Roman Catholic Church, all in Rochester Hills.

For more information, contact the churches involved.

## Church, indeed, has a voice in political process

### FOCUS ON THEOLOGY



REV. TIMOTHY F. BABCOCK

In a few weeks, citizens of the United States will participate in one of the most cherished aspects of our life as a nation — the right to choose our leaders in government. This national election is of particular significance because the office of president is one of those being determined. Though many are skeptical of the significance of the exercise of this right and privilege is one of the most important responsibilities we have as citizens of a free nation. Many aspects of life within our own country, as well as events on the world scene, can be strongly influenced by the choices we citizens make in November. We should take this responsibility most seriously.

One of the more interesting aspects of the pre-election period each year is what role church bodies and communities play in the process of the decisions citizens make as they approach the polls. Very appropriately, we have a tradition of separation of church and state. The church is not and should not be in a position of telling people how they should vote. This is one of the foundational principles of our republic.

Does this mean, however, that the churches, as major institutions in our country, have no role in the process of making decisions in an election? Both history, and the philosophy of our life, would not support this. The churches can and should have a very significant role especially in addressing issues that are presented to the electorate in the election. This role can most appropriately be seen as contributing to the dialogue that helps citizens make their decisions, rather than trying to dictate decisions to any citizens — including the church's own members.

Reflection will make it clear that there are many interest groups seeking to influence the decision of voters as they exercise their vote. Not only are there political parties, but there are various groups representing a whole array of causes that seek to present information to voters. Should the churches be excluded from this process? Would the well being of our country be served if they are? I think most of us would think not.

As a matter of fact, the exact way in which churches participate in the national debate prior to each election varies a great deal. Most churches become involved in issues rather than individuals. This seems most appropriate for tax exempt, service-oriented communities such as churches. Some churches, however, are able to be very active in supporting and promoting candidates that they determine are in the best interests of their members. There is not a uniformity in what is acceptable activity in the political process for all churches.

I would suggest that it is the role of the churches to help the citizens consider the "higher" elements of life and thinking in arriving at their individual decisions. Churches should encourage citizens to consider what is truly best for the country, not simply what is the most satisfying for oneself. In an age of powerful political action committees, serving many business and other interests, it should be the role of the church to encourage citizens to orient their decision toward a search for the true common good. The common good is shaped by a vision, by a commitment to certain values that should guide our choices.

Is it not the role of the church, for example, to speak for those who are not part of the power groups. Does the church have a role in the political dialogue in coming weeks? I would hope that it makes a very, very significant contribution, and helps all of us, as citizens, to work for a better society.

The Rev. Timothy F. Babcock is pastor of St. Andrew Catholic Church in Rochester. You can reach him at the church: (810) 631-7486.

# FLORIDA

- Vacation Townhouses In Florida
- Two & Three Bedroom Townhomes
- Concrete Block Construction - Low Maintenance
- Clubhouse, Gated Private Entry, Pools, Tennis
- "It's All Included" Package
- Snowbird & Retirees Package
- Near Disney, Universal Studios and Sea World
- Shopping, Beaches and International Airport
- Inspection & Tour Packages Available

Presentation in Troy

## Somerset Inn

12 Noon and 4 P.M.

Videos • Brochures • Photos • Free Admission  
Limited Seating • Call For Reservations

1-888-396-3200

## Shopping for Blinds & Wallpaper?

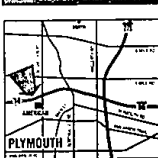
Look no further for the largest selection and lowest price... guaranteed!

Visit the 20,000 sq. ft. Factory Showroom Outlet!  
Over 1,000 Blinds on Display and Over 3,000 Special Order Wallpaper Books on Hand!

Best Price... Best Service!  
Save up to **82% Off!**

We Beat All Competitor Prices!

LARGEST QUALITY NATIONAL BRANDS INCLUDING MASTER BOOK CASES - TAYLOR S200 - GRABER - BALI - KIRSCH - DLETTE - ALL WALLPAPER BOOKS & MORE!



## American Blind and Wallpaper Factory

1-800-735-5300

If you can't visit, call for a price quote or a FREE Blind Sample Kit.

Ask About No Payments for 90 Days!

Showroom Hours: Mon-Sat. 10am-5pm  
Thurs. 10am-9pm • Sun. 12pm-5pm

# A Great Money Market Rate 5%

- High rate
- Totally liquid
- \$5,000 minimum to open



Visit any branch or call our Information Center today!  
1-800-758-0753  
Hours: Monday-Friday 7 a.m.-7 p.m. Saturday 9 a.m.-Noon

Bloomfield Hills (810) 258-5300  
Grosse Pointe Farms (313) 882-6400  
Farmington Hills (810) 737-0444

Financing The American Dream

## 5 REASONS YOU SHOULD CALL ME BEFORE YOU PAY YOUR NEXT CAR OR HOME INSURANCE BILLS



LARRY "JOE" MANSELL

- 1. SAVE TIME** - I will give you a price over the phone.
- 2. SAVE MONEY** - Every insurance company charges different prices.
- 3. #1 AGENT** - Al Bourdeau Insurance Service, Inc. is **Citizen's** largest agent.
- 4. #1 COMPANY** - **Citizen's** is Michigan's #1 insurance company using independent agents.
- 5. DEPENDABILITY** - Seventy-Five years in business means you can be sure we will be here when you need us.

CAR INSURANCE HOME INSURANCE

810-625-0020



Al Bourdeau Insurance service inc.  
Since 1921