

BELIEFS Values

First Presbyterian helps Honduras hurricane victims

First Presbyterian Church, Birmingham, sponsored a recent mission trip to Honduras, to assist with Hurricane Mitch recovery. Fifteen area residents, including six students, went on the mission.

"Even before Hurricane Mitch struck, Honduras was a very impoverished nation," said the Rev. Louise Westfall, associate church pastor, who led the mission along with Joelle Wickens, church youth director. "Yet we saw enormous energy and hopefulness on the part of the Hondurans

to work together to improve their lives and communities. Faith-based community organizing efforts have strengthened their ability to address problems of nutrition, health and economic development."

The group assisted with cement-block construction of houses, and building projects at a Women's Shelter near the capital city of Tegucigalpa.

They were hosted by a grass-roots, faith-based Honduran organization known as the Christian Commission for Development, which receives

funding from Church World Service, part of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA (sponsor of CROP Walks.)

The nine adults participating were from Birmingham, Beverly Hills, Bingham Farms, and Troy; the six students were from Groves and Seaholm High Schools.

First Presbyterian Church will send another team of volunteers to work in Honduras Feb. 11-18, 2000.



On site: Sheila Roebke (second from left), Joelle Wickens, Julie Wagner, and the Rev. Louise Westfall of the First Presbyterian Church, Birmingham, are pictured with Gladys (far left) and work supervisor Hector, (right), both of the Honduras, as they construct a house on a recent mission trip to the Honduras.

Sessions mark 1st night of Shavuot

Conservative synagogues throughout metro Detroit will be observing the first night of the festival of Shavuot, which commemorates the giving of the Torah to the Jewish people on Mt. Sinai, with late-night Torah study sessions, called Tikun Leil Shavuot, on Thursday, May 20.

They include:

■ Adat Shalom Synagogue, in Farmington Hills, will hold its *Tikun Leil Shavuot* at the home of Rabbi Daniel and Lynn Schelle Nevins from 10 p.m. to 1 a.m. Three study sessions, all relating to the themes of the holiday, will be presented. Refreshments will be served. No charge, but reservations are a must.

For information, reservations, directions, call Sheila Lederman in Rabbi Nevins' office, (248)861-5100.

■ Congregation Beth Abraham Hillel Moses, 6076 West Maple Road, West Bloomfield, is holding a *Tikun Leil Shavuot* for all age groups, beginning with a pizza party at 7 p.m.

At 8 p.m. there will be Torah study sessions for adults and parallel activities for children in age groups K-4, 5-7, and 8-12, followed by a Make-Your-Own-Sundae Party at 9:30 p.m.

Free, drop-in. All adult learners with or without children invited. For more information, call (248)861-6880.

■ Congregation B'nai Meshe, 6800 Drake Road, West Bloomfield, will begin its *Tikun Leil Shavuot* with *mincha-mariv* services, followed by a dinner, then a number of study sessions on Shavuot themes.

There is a charge for dinner, reservations required. For more information, call (248)788-0600.

■ Congregation Shaarey Zedek will host a *Tikun Leil Shavuot* at two locations: the synagogue's main building at 27375 Bell Road in Southfield, from 8:15 p.m. to 7:30 a.m., including a sunrise service; and the B'nai Israel Center, 4200 Walnut Lake Road, West Bloomfield, from 8:15 p.m. to midnight.

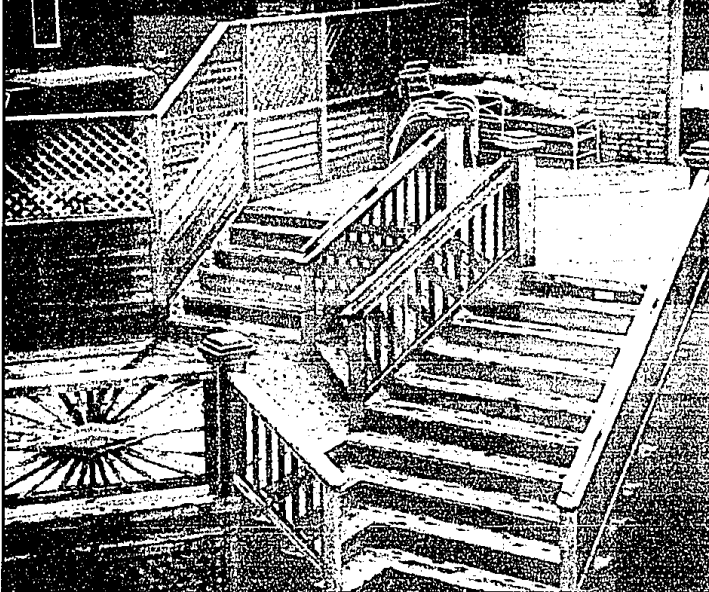
Refreshments will be served. There is no charge, and reservations are not required. Adult learners are invited to drop in at any time.

For a schedule of *Tikun Leil Shavuot* sessions at the two Shaarey Zedek locations, call Rabbi Joseph Krakoff at (248)357-5544.

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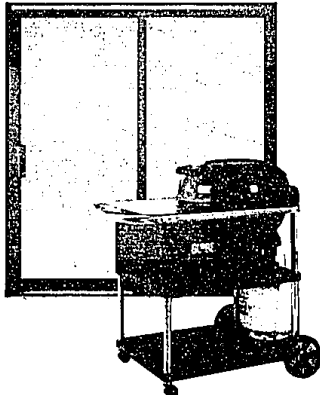


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