

Farmington Clan Braids Palms For The Cardinal

Palms for the cardinal on Palm Sunday are a tradition for Farmington's Frederick Wenson family.

A tradition that the Wenson clan intends to keep going a long time.

Their palms are not the ordinary strips of green associated with the age-old rites of Palm Sunday.

Each is a complete branch, with most of the leaves intricately braided into rosettes and flowers to make it a thing of beauty.

THE DAY BEFORE each Palm Sunday, Wenson delivers two freshly braided palms to the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament in Detroit for Cardinal John Dearden and one of the bishops to carry in the walk that begins the celebration of Holy Week.

"We make them only for the cardinal," said Wenson, who learned the craft from his mother and is passing it on to his six children. "The only other person I would consider making one is the pope, and this it would have to be as a gift from the cardinal."

The story of the beautifully-braided palms goes back more than half a century to the days when Wenson's mother, the late Mrs. Katherine Wenson, was a small girl in one of Detroit's Catholic schools.

"The nuns had taught her class some elementary methods of braiding palms, I guess as a means of putting to use the palm leaves all Catholic children receive on Palm Sunday," her son said.

SHE KEPT WORKING at the craft, and as she grew up her creations became more intricate, he added. When she married and had children in Catholic schools, there were more palms to braid.

"By the time I was in eighth grade," Wenson remembers, "we were living in the Blessed Sacrament parish and my mother used to send braided palms back to the school. My teacher, Sister Ludmilla, was in charge of decorating the altar and asked if my mother would consider making some of her braided palms for the occasion. Mother said she would be honored."

The whole family pitched in to work on two large palms and several smaller ones, Wenson said. Cardinal Edward Mooney carried them in the Palm Sunday procession, and from then on the Wenson palms were an annual part of Palm Sunday at Blessed Sacrament Cathedral.

After Cardinal Mooney's death the palms still were gratefully received by his successor, Archbishop Dearden, later to become the second cardinal to head the Detroit archdiocese. Frederick Wenson and his sister worked with their



FREDERICK WENSON of Farmington holds up a plain palm branch and one of the ones he will take to Cardinal John Dearden for Palm Sunday. (Evert photo)

parents on the project each year.

He got away from palm-braiding after he went into the service, but started helping his mother again after she began being troubled with arthritis. Since her death three years ago he and his family, who attend Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows, have been the palm braiders.

WENSON PICKS UP his palm branches a week before

Palm Sunday. This year he and the family did most of the work in two or three days. He took a couple of days off from his manufacturer's representative job.

"We now make about 16 different kinds of roses and other flowers," he said, "and we keep developing new ones."

The finished palms must be kept damp until they are delivered to the cathedral. "We just fill the bathtub and

stick them in," Wenson said. "and take showers the week before Palm Sunday."

Besides the makings for his cardinal's palms, Wenson always brings home leaves to make a special palm for his wife and others for home use—and some to practice on.

"A lot of traditions are lost, but we want to maintain this one," Wenson said. "As long as our family goes on, we'll keep braiding palms for the cardinal."

Historian To Speak In Livonia

Dr. Paul L. Maier, professor of history and campus chaplain at Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, will give two lectures on "Backgrounds of the Crucifixion" on Palm Sunday. He will speak at 4 and 7 p.m. in Livonia Baptist Church, 3250 Schaefer, March 26.

Dr. Maier's first historical novel, "Pontius Pilate," a fresh view of the politics behind the Good Friday event, was published by Doubleday and Co. in 1968.

His latest book is a documentary on the Nativity entitled "First Christmas - The True and Unfamiliar Story." It was published last fall by Harper and Row.



DR. PAUL L. MAIER

late Dr. Walter A. Maier, founding speaker of the "Lutheran Hour." Its title is "A Man, Spoke, A World Listened." His first book, published in 1959, was about a contemporary of Luther, "Caspar Schwenckfeld."

He attended Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass., and Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Mo. He was awarded a Fulbright Fellowship and studied for two years at the University of Heidelberg, Germany, and the University of Basel, Switzerland. He received his doctor of philosophy degree summa cum laude in October 1957. Among his teachers were the famed scholars Karl Barth and Oscar Cullmann.

His specialty is ancient history and the Reformation era.

Inter-Faith Players To Present Drama

The Inter-Faith Players will present an original Easter play, written by Mrs. Lafern Porter of Westland, Palm Sunday, March 26.

The play, entitled "Come Walk With Me," will be presented at 4 and 7 p.m. in St. Mark's Presbyterian Church, 26701 Joy Road (between Beech Daly and Inkster Roads), Dearborn Heights.

Following both performances, refreshments, prepared by the women of the church, will be served. Mrs. Arleen Gable is in charge of this.

The life-sized papier-mache donkey, which was created for the last Christmas play performed by the group, will make a return engagement, this time as the speaker of the final meeting of the community all-faith lent series March 29, in North Congregational Church, 26275 Northwestern Highway, Southfield.

'Chaplains' Minister Will Be Speaker

The Rev. Kenneth J. Weber, minister of the Memorial Congregation of the Four Chaplains, Detroit, will be the speaker at the final meeting of the community all-faith lent series March 29, in North Congregational Church, 26275 Northwestern Highway, Southfield.

Rev. Weber is executive director of We Care Inc., a work with convicts, ex-convicts and their families. He is also founder of the Memorial Congregation, an unusual inner city ministry whose members come from various denominations.

Rev. Weber will speak from 12:10 until 12:30 p.m. A cafeteria lunch is available before his talk.

The speaker for Good Friday services at the church will be the Rev. Philip Gentile, minister emeritus of Community Congregational Church, Lathrup Village, and minister of the aging at Central Methodist Church, Detroit.

Jesus was a way-shower.

Come to this Christian Science Lecture "CHRISTIANITY IS FOR TODAY" by Howard M. Irwin a Christian Science practitioner 3:00 P.M. Saturday, April 1, 1972 Dr. Edwin J. O'Leary Performing Arts Center, 6500 Middlebelt Road.

TEMPLE BAPTIST CHURCH

23800 W. Chicago
Dr. G. B. Vick, Pastor

Sunday School
Morning Worship
Evening Service

10 a.m.
11 a.m.
7 p.m.

Speaker for both services
Rev. Truman Dollar
Lesson: Acts 17: 22-34

FREE BUS TRANSPORTATION TO SUNDAY SCHOOL
Call 265-3337

WMB Channel 50
Sundays 8:30-9 a.m.

WMB 2-PM Detroit
Fridays 7-7:15 p.m.
Saturdays 7-7:30 p.m.

Religion Update

A new highlight (or lowlight) in the tiresome crescendo of irresponsible church - beating was issued recently by staffers of a new section of the National Council of Churches (NCC), called the Corporate Information Center.

Ten major denominations - as well as the NCC itself - were publicly charged with complicity in the "irresponsible, immoral and socially injurious acts" of 29 major U.S. corporations.

The reason for this bitter excoriation: these 29 corporations all have contracts with the U.S. Department of Defense, and the denominations hold stock in the corporations.

IN POINT OF FACT, however, only seven of these corporations have more than one - fifth of their sales in military contracts and of these only Lockheed (71 per cent) and United Aircraft (37 per cent) have more than a quarter of their sales to the military.

Moreover, only the Disciples of Christ (41 per cent) has more than 14 per cent of its stock portfolio invested in such firms. Yet this denomination, as well as others such as the Presbyterians, the Methodists, the Episcopalians, the United Church of Christ, the Church of the Brethren and the Unitarians - Universalists, stand accused of "immorality" by these NCC staffers.

The suggestion that these denominations are therefore guilty of hypocritical, money-grubbing war - mongering by their investment in a

collection of Krupp's evidence of the boundless make - work enterprises of some of those who have managed to infiltrate the staff of the NCC.

THE REV. Carroll Simcox, editor of The Living Church magazine, gives these staffers the benefit of the doubt in observing editorially:

"The authors of this report believe that any firm that manufactures military goods should be blacklisted, on the principle that such production is immoral in itself. Their premise is that of absolute pacifism, which condemns the very concept of a national defense system based on military strength."

THESE CORPORATION informers of the NCC are apparently bent upon a wide-scale harassment of the corporations of their choice - with the approval of the General Assembly of the NCC. For despite a continuing downturn in denominational support of the NCC, there is apparently enough money to fund the Corporate Information Center, "The Corporate Examiner." And in further support of these ecclesiastical investment sleuths, Dr. William P. Thompson, stated clerk of the Presbyterian Church USA, advised the denominations not

to "rush to sell their stocks, for that obviously negates their opportunity to address management."

IT WOULD BE interesting, however, if some interdenominational corporation were to turn the tables on these confrontationalists by addressing them in return.

He might, for openers, ask these NCC staffers whether the NCC would be willing to call upon all its 33 member denominations to require their financial churches to refuse any financial support from any church member who either works for or invests in any of these 29 "war - mongering" corporations.

If it were replied that this would be impractical (given local churches' understandable aversion to bankruptcy), he might ask why these pacifist pariahs have not demanded that the NCC refuse financial support from any denomination which refuses to do so.

And as a final grabber, he might ask how these sacredotal Nader - Raiders have turned in that portion of their NCC salaries equivalent to what they have exposed as church income from alleged war industries.

Holy Week Services Set

Holy Week services will be held March 29 through April 2 in the Forest Hills Missionary Church, 30623 W. 12 Mile, Farmington.

The Rev. Mark Burgess of Elkhart, Ind., will be the guest speaker. Special music will be by the Overholt Family from Battle Creek. The group has

composed many well-known gospel songs, including "Ten Thousand Angels."

Services will begin at 7 each evening and at 10:55 a.m. and 7 p.m. - Easter Sunday. Nursery care will be provided. The Rev. Harold C. Beigle is the pastor of the church.



REV. MATTHEWS

Church To Hold Crusade

The Rev. Elwood Matthews of Cleveland, Tenn., will be evangelist for a Crusade for Christ to be conducted from March 25 to 31 in the O'Leary Performing Arts Center, 6500 Middlebelt, Garden City.

Services are planned each evening at 7:30 p.m. Sponsoring the crusade are 18 Detroit-area churches of the Church of God of Prophecy denomination. The Rev. Bennie Hart is coordinator.

A denomination spokesman said gatherings of about 1,000 persons are expected each evening. Special youth services are planned Thursday and Friday, March 30 and 31.

Rev. Matthews is director of evangelism for the Church of God of Prophecy. He also has served as evangelist, pastor and international youth director.

His wife, Roberta, will be soloist. She has accompanied him on two world tours, including stops in Vietnam, and her work is known on Majestic and Mark V. records.

CHURCH OF GOD

Riverside Park
CHURCH OF GOD
11771 Newburgh Road
at Plymouth Road

Location: 104-0990
Pastor: Rev. J. Clifford Thor
Rev. Robert L. McFarling
4444 E. 12 Mile Road
714 E. 12 Mile Road, 12th and Irving

Livonia Church of God
18322 Livonia Rd.
Rev. J. L. Walker

Sunday School 10 a.m.
Morning Worship 11 a.m.
Evening Service 7 p.m.
Wed. Night 7:30 p.m.

Phone: 476-7933
Parsonage 476-4555

EVANGELICAL COVENANT

EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH
24331 W. Eight Mile Road
CHURCH OF GOD
Detroit
Edwin T. Clement, Pastor KE 3-9363

SUNDAY SERVICES
9:30 a.m. Sunday School
10:45 a.m. Morning Worship
7 p.m. Evening Service

CHURCH OF CHRIST

KENWOOD CHURCH OF CHRIST
22020 Meridian, Livonia
2000 E. 8 Mile Road
Lyle Batters, minister

SUNDAY SERVICES
9:45 a.m. Bible School
11:00 a.m. Morning Worship
6:30 p.m. Evening Service

WEDNESDAY
March 29, 1972
Church's Hour 1:45 Sunday
On WBTV (59.7 FM)

SOUTH REDFORD CHURCH OF CHRIST

Gene Ellis, Evangelist

Bible School 10:00 a.m.
Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.
Youth Hour (for all ages) 6:00 p.m.
Evening Service 7:30 p.m.
Wednesday Service 7:30 p.m.

Church 255-3020

PRIMITIVE BAPTIST

Pontiac
Primitive Baptist Church
20909 Whitcomb St.
(N. of E. 12 Mile)
between Mainman & Farmington Rd.
Services: 7 p.m. Sunday
10:30 a.m. Sunday
Robert Mayhew, Pastor
424-4234 474-5359

BAPTIST

First Baptist Church
4500 E. 12 Mile Rd.
Sundays 9:30 a.m. Morning Worship
11 a.m. Evening Service
Lent 8:15 a.m. Wednesday
Lent 8:15 a.m. Wednesday
Program for All Ages
Pastor: Dr. Thompson
Pastor: Dr. Thompson

Call Ann Ryder For Information

261-8600 ext. 280

CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH

42005 Joy Road, Plymouth
Phone: 453-6749 or 455-0022
Services 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. Bible School 9:45 a.m.

Rev. Wilfred Bellamy
Tom Hovernal, Minister of Music
Ken Evans Interim Youth Pastor

Grand River Baptist Church

34500 Six Mile Road
(1/2 mile west of Farmington Rd.)

Sunday Services
9:30 a.m. Family Sunday School
10:45 a.m. Morning Worship (Musical)
8 p.m. Evening Service
7 p.m. Evening Service

Wednesday
8:15 p.m. Family Dinner by Reservation
7:30 p.m. Family Bible Study
8:15 p.m. Business through Adult

GREEK ORTHODOX

Holy Cross
Greek Orthodox Church

25125 Middlebelt Rd.
Farmington 477-1677

Rev. S. J. Anthony, M.B.
Pastor
Tanganyika Baptist Services
21575 W. 10 Mile, Southfield
11:15 a.m. Sunday School
11:15 a.m. Divine Liturgy
English Sermon
"Visions - Always Welcome"

CHURCH DIRECTORY

EPISCOPAL

The Episcopal Church welcomes you

Holy Spirit, Westland
34645 Cowan Rd.
261-8460
(Serving Southwest Livonia)
Sunday Worship 8 a.m. and 10 a.m.
Transportation available - call church

Saint Andrews, Livonia
16360 Hubbard Road
421-8451
Sunday Worship:
8:45 and 11 a.m.
10 a.m. Deaf Worship

Saint John's, Plymouth
574 S. Sheldon Road
453-0190
Sunday Worship:
8:30 and 10 a.m.

CHURCHES OF CHRIST

FARMINGTON
36500 Eleven Mile
SUNDAY WORSHIP:
11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.
Bible School 10 a.m.
West 7:30 a.m. Worship
Robert E. Ashby, Minister
422-8860
at 104

GARDEN CITY
1657 Middlebelt Rd.
SUNDAY WORSHIP:
11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.
Bible School 10 a.m.
West 7:30 a.m. Worship
Robert E. Ashby, Minister
422-8860
at 104

PLYMOUTH
9301 Sheldon Rd.
Bible School 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Worship:
10:45 a.m. and 6 p.m.
Bible School 8:45 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.
West 7:30 a.m. Worship
Ronald White, Minister
422-8743

See Herald of Truth
TV Channel 9 Sunday 9:30 a.m.
Call or Write for Free Correspondence Course

PRESBYTERIAN

ROSEDALE GARDENS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Garfield 2-0494
Hubbard and Church School 9 a.m. and 11 a.m.
Pastors: Richard C. Dunkelberger, D.D.
Arthur Beumler Jr.

ST. MARK'S PRESBYTERIAN
26701 Joy Rd. (E. of Inkster)
218-9340
"Singing The Four Commandments"
EVERYONE WELCOME
CHURCH SCHOOL AND WORSHIP
10:00
Rev. Ivan G. Smith, Pastor

WARD UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF LIVONIA
Farmington Road and Six Mile Road
422-1150
Worship and Bible School
9:15 and 11:30 a.m.
"The City Was Moved"
Dr. Hess

ST. TIMOTHY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
4700 Westland Road
Calvin Gundersen, Pastor
10 a.m. Worship and Church School
(Coffee Hour)
11 a.m. Church School

261-4844 427-0245

ASSEMBLY OF GOD

PARKDALE ASSEMBLY OF GOD
36516 Parkdale
18A S. of Plymouth and Levan Rd.
Rev. David H. 6:14

Sunday Services
Morning Worship 10:00 a.m.
Evening Service 7:30 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study 7:30 p.m.
425-0450 or 422-6300

FAIR HAVEN ASSEMBLY OF GOD
116 South Beach Blvd.
Dearborn Heights, Michigan
274-9715

Rev. Fred McDowell, Pastor 425-1089
SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:00 a.m.
MORNING WORSHIP 11:00 a.m.
EVENING SERVICE 7:30 p.m.
WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY AND YOUTH SERVICE 7:30 p.m.

CHRISTIAN CHURCH

(Disciples of Christ)
LIVONIA CHRISTIAN CHURCH
36075 W. 10 Mile Rd. 522-7188
Pastor
Rev. Donald Measler
Church School 9:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.
Morning Worship 11 a.m.

For Evangelism Information
Please Call
Ann Ryder
261-8600 ext. 280

PLYMOUTH
First Presbyterian Church
701 Church 453-6464
Philip Rodgers Mager • Lewis S. Brown

ST. PAUL'S Presbyterian Church
27475 Five Mile Road
GA 2-1470
"Evangelism"
Dr. William F. Whitledge
Rev. Arnold S. Deibel
Rev. William A. McElroy
Ministers
Worship: Church School
9:30 and 11 a.m.

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