

New Pastor Plans To 'Know' Congregation

By ELIZABETH WISSMAN

The Rev. James Stewart, who has replaced retired Pastor Frank Smith at Farmington Bethel Baptist Church, will spend the coming months getting to know his congregation and will take his time about making any changes at the church. Not only will it be expedient

to make no changes, but the new pastor wants to learn more about his Farmington congregation and take his direction from it.

THE STEWARTS moved to Michigan from Chicago after the birth of their son, Randy, now 10, because of the employment opportunities here. In Chicago, Mr. Stewart attended Moody Bible Institute. Since the move to Michigan a daughter, Kimberly, has been born.

With all that schooling behind him, the pastor is not yet finished with his education. He has plans to obtain a master's degree in education at Eastern Michigan University. "I feel," he notes, "that education is one of the most impor-

tant areas of the church. And a person that is educated has a better opportunity in life and a better view of life. Especially is needed, however, education in the work of God."

UNLIKE MANY young ministers of today, Mr. Stewart is not for the wholesale entrance of clergymen into public and lay affairs.

"I have to know what course I'm going to take as an individual, first," he explains. He continues, "The church has a specific purpose -- to glorify God and people's lives."

"I don't believe that new legislation and new laws are going to change people's hearts toward one another -- I believe that a person's heart is changed toward other persons from the Biblical message that Jesus saves," says Mr. Stewart.

IN CONVERSATION about the northern way of life contrasted with the southern, the pastor comments, "Northerners are responsible, more ready to do things. It is not half as hard up here to get people to back an idea."

But he has found that Farmington is just about like Bluefield in size and atmosphere so he knows he will be at home in his new pastorate.



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Council Appoints Pair To Board

New appointees were named to both the Farmington Planning Commission and the Board of Zoning Appeals by the City Council this week.

The juggling became necessary when Fred M. Selbert recently was named to fill out the unexpired council term of Hugo E. Peterson, who resigned.

Selbert had been chairman of the planners, and with both he and Councilman John A. Allen on that board it was necessary for one to resign. Selbert took this step Monday.

The planning commission vacancy thus created was filled with the appointment of Richard Tupper of 2210 Cass to take Selbert's place.

When the council also named Selbert as Peterson's replacement on the zoning appeals board this, too, created a vacancy necessitating selection of a new planning commission delegate to that body.

Selected to fill this gap was Don J. Stoddard, 2189 Birchwood.

Dems Oppose Millage

Farmington Democrats have taken the position that they will support the proposed county millage issue only if Farmington Township officials pledge to use 50 per cent of the funds raised for the maintenance of local, residential and subdivision roads.

The Farmington Democratic Club membership took this position when they adopted a resolution at the monthly meeting proposed by Aldo Vagomez and supported by Chairman Gerald Freedman.

Vagomez pointed out that growing opposition to the original proposal to use all the funds raised on only primary roads had resulted in a change in policy on the part of the Oakland County Road Commission.

The new policy as spelled out by Paul VanHook, county highway engineer, is: "We're now saying that up to 50 per cent of the money raised by the tax levy in a township might be spent on local roads if this is what the township wants."

Freedman said the township board has the responsibility to let the voters know before the Aug. 6 vote on the millage issue how much of the funds will be used for local roads.

"The condition of local roads in the township, among the worst in the state, required that the full 50 per cent be firmly committed to their repair," Freedman said.

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Robert N. Sawyer, Jr., Asst. Minister
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