

# 'Ignostic' Rabbi Is Farmington-Bound

By ELIZABETH WISSMAN Staff Writer

It may seem somewhat incongruous, but when the Birmingham Temple builds its new edifice just off the I-596 expressway at 12 Mile near Middlebelt, it will still be the Birmingham Temple with a Farmington address.

Spiritual leader of the temple, Rabbi Sherwin Wine, explains, "We've grown up with the name. It's very hard to dispense with a name you've become known by."

Rabbi Wine is the young man who raised such a storm in 1965 over his personal beliefs about the relevancy of God.

The controversy arose during the Detroit newspaper strike

and was one of the first big stories printed at the end of the strike.

DURING the uproar, Rabbi Wine was threatened with ouster by the rabbinical association, but says today, "It's somewhat died down."

Just what is his philosophy? It led to an accusation that the rabbi was an agnostic. He calls himself an "ignostic."

Here is his definition: "An ignostic is a person who doesn't understand why a belief in God is important. And if it's not important, there are many other matters to study."

"Discussions about God are irrelevant to solving problems. Therefore, believing or not

believing in God doesn't help people solve their problems."

"A good religion helps people solve their problems."

"The main concern of our temple is not with God, but with man. What is his nature, what are his needs, how can he fulfill these needs?"

Asked how he accounts for the wonders of the universe and man, the rabbi has a ready answer:

"To ATTRIBUTE them to God is a child's answer. When you ask who made the universe, there's a hidden premise in the question."

"There is no answer to the origin of the universe. And there is not enough information to answer it."

Although he does not acknowledge the presence of a soul within man, the rabbi admits man has a better nature.

"Man is so constituted," he says, "that he requires the support and approval of his fellow man. The function of a good religion is to cultivate this need. I think his fellow man's opinion is the basis for a man doing what is right."

Some of Rabbi Wine's philosophy sounds like Berkeley's theory of logical positivism. He says the evolution of his belief was a gradual process of development through Detroit public schools, the University of Michigan and Hebrew Union College, Cincinnati.

He was brought up in conservative Judaism at Congregation Shaarey Zedek.

UNTIL THE MOVE is made to Farmington, the rabbi's 175-member congregation will continue to meet in Oak Park. The move was made to Oak Park when the Birmingham Masonic Temple would no longer let it meet there. For a time, the congregation met at the Birmingham Unitarian Church.

Rabbi Wine says the Unitarians have been among his best friends.



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## Local Boy Is

### An Affirmant

The first Affirmation Service of the New Temple congregation was held June 16 at the Birmingham Unitarian Church, Bloomfield Hills. Two young people, Elizabeth Mersky, daughter of the Morris Merskys of Orchard Lake and Bernard Welton, son of the Lincoln Weltons of Farmington, have completed the tenth grade of religious school.

Religious school students of the lower grades assisted in honoring the two affirmants.

### Receives Degree

Frederick N. Stover, 32373 Nestlewood, recently received a bachelor degree with a major in science at commencement exercises at Purdue University.



RABBI SHERWIN WINE

## Floral Park News

E. R. PHILLIPS GR 4-6575

Mrs. Thomas Mahoney, 22751 Lilac, was a winner of eight ribbons for her flowers and arranging, at the show given at the Lyonia Mall, June 3, by the Southern Michigan Iris and Hemerocallis Society.

She won ribbons for her Blue Sapphire, Helen McCauley, Allaglow, Carmella, Limestone, Lovely Letty and Anthem, and for her Amethyst Flame she won the "King of Show." She also was a winner of the Sweepstakes for her floral arrangement.

There were about 350 specimens in the show. Mrs. Mahoney entered 15 specimens.

Mrs. Marie A. Phillips, 22779 Lilac, was one of six employees

of the Northville State Hospital selected for a citation by the Patients Council of the hospital.

She was elected "Psychiatric Helper" for the month of January. The citation was given at a tea held June 7 at the hospital.

Mrs. Evelyn Hobbs, 22481 Lilac, was one of the 15 school board employees to be honored at a Farmington School Board celebration for retirees. Her retirement will be effective this month.

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph McInerney, of Lakeport, former Floral park residents, visited the Phillips family of 22779 Lilac, Sunday, June 4. Mrs. McInerney's brother Dick Corrao, of Port Huron, came along and all enjoyed a cook-out dinner and the visit.

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## Attend Church This Sunday

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### TRINITY EPISCOPAL

26800 Lakewood Drive  
Farmington  
In Springland Subdivision  
8:30 a.m. Holy Communion  
10:30 a.m. Family Worship Service  
Church School Facilities at Beechview School  
The Rev. Joseph A. Pelham  
Rector  
GR. 4-2860

### FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

24162 Farmington Rd.  
at Eleven Mile Rd.  
Worship, Church School and Nursery  
8:30 a.m. & 11:05 a.m.  
George W. Ramsey, Minister  
Robert N. Sawyer, Jr., Asst. Minister  
Church - GR. 4-6178

### NORTH FARMINGTON BAPTIST CHURCH

32500 W. Thirteen Mile Rd.  
(just west of Orchard Lake Rd.)  
Affiliated with The American Baptist Convention and The Metro Detroit Synod of Churches  
"PART OF THE PROBLEM IS THE ANSWER"  
Worship Service 10:00 a.m. (Nursery)  
Church School 11:10 a.m. (All Ages)

### Orchard Methodist Church

30450 Farmington Road  
Farmington Road between 12 and 14 Mile Roads  
FRANK A. COZADD, Minister - GR. 6-0170  
Worship Service and Church School at 9:30 and 11:00 a.m.  
Nursery Provided  
Office - MA. 6-6820

### BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH

21605 FARMINGTON ROAD  
bet. Eight and Nine Mile  
Sunday School 9:45 a.m.  
Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.  
Youth Groups 5:45 p.m.  
Evening Service 7:00 p.m.  
Wednesday Bible Study and Prayer Hour 7:30 p.m.  
FRANK R. SMITH, Pastor  
GR. 4-2844

### The Lutheran Church of the INCARNATION

30333 W. Ten Mile Rd.  
Church School 9:45 a.m.  
Worship Service 11:00 a.m.  
Nursery Provided  
Rev. Peter C. Larson  
476-2335 474-5318

### You Are Invited to Attend First Church of Christ Scientist

33825 Grand River Ave.  
Farmington, Mich.  
Sunday Service 11 a.m.  
Sunday School 11 a.m.  
Wed. Evening Meeting 8 p.m.  
Reading Room in Church before 7:30 p.m. (Thursdays 7:30 to 9 p.m.)

### ST. JOHN AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH

23225 GILL ROAD  
Grand River  
ST. JOHN'S  
Alta Loma  
Freedom Rd.  
Worship Services 8:30 11:00  
Nursery - Both Services  
SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:40 a.m.  
Rev. Charles Fox, Pastor  
GR. 4-0581

### JUDSON BAPTIST CHURCH

Meeting in EAST JR. HIGH SCHOOL  
25000 MIDDLEBELT ROAD  
Worship Services, 9:30 a.m.  
Sunday School 10:45 a.m.  
Youth Training Hr. 5:45 p.m.  
Evening Gospel Hr. 7:00 p.m.  
Mid-Week Prayer Service Thursday, 7:30 p.m.  
Rev. Fred G. Ferris, Pastor  
BR. 3-3275

### SALEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Oakland at Gd. River Farmington  
SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:00 A.M.  
ADULT BIBLE STUDY (Nursery) 9:00 A.M.  
WORSHIP SERVICE (Nursery) 10:15 A.M.  
Parsonage GR. 6-0457 Church Office GR. 4-6889  
Carl E. Schulte, Minister

### CLARENCEVILLE METHODIST CHURCH

26300 Middlebelt Rd.  
Livonia, Michigan  
9:00 a.m. Worship Service  
10:15 a.m. Church School  
11:15 a.m. Worship Service  
6:30 p.m. Youth Groups  
7:30 p.m. The Evening Service  
Wednesday - 7:30 p.m. Prayer Service  
ELISIE A. JOHNS, Minister GR. 4-5902

### North Congregational Church

Northwestern Highway at Lahser Road  
EL 6-1460 and 444-4376  
MINISTER: Dr. Ralph H. Read  
11:00 A.M. MORNING SERVICE OF WORSHIP  
11:00 A.M. CHURCH SCHOOL  
CLASSES THROUGH 4th GRADE  
Infant care provided  
ALL ARE WELCOME

### FIRST METHODIST Church

OF FARMINGTON  
Serving Farmington Since 1829  
Grand River at Warner  
Worship Service and Church School  
9:15 and 10:40 a.m.  
Minister  
Dr. W. Leslie Williams  
Rev. B. Bryce Swiler  
Parish Visiting  
Mrs. Sidney Eva  
Parsonage GR. 4-7568  
Office GR. 4-6573

### Methodists Name New Associate

The Rev. B. Bryce Swiler, recently appointed by Bishop Dwight L. Loder at the Detroit annual conference of the Methodist Church, is the new associate minister of First Methodist Church of Farmington.

Mr. Swiler comes to Farmington from Lexington, Mich., where he has served as pastor of the Lexington Methodist Church for the past three years. Mr. Swiler calls Marion, Mich., his home town. He received his B.A. degree from Asbury College; his B.D. from Asbury Theological Seminary, both institutions in Wilmore, Ky.

He and his wife, Carol, have two children, Bryan, age 4 and Sara 2. They will make their home in the church parsonage at 22964 Hayden.

Mr. Swiler will be the minister of education and associate of Dr. W. Leslie Williams, senior minister. He fills the vacancy left by the Rev. David R. Stone, who is now in the research department of the Presbyterian Church.

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