

New Church Displays Its Present And Future

By MARGARET MILLER
Church Editor

A very young church in the Plymouth-Canton area will open open house Sunday, June 11, to show the community both is tiny chapel for the present and its space to build for the future.

The Rev. James Jones, pastor of Grace Baptist Church, invited all who are interested to visit both the building the congregation has been refurbishing at 44265 Ford, just east of Sheldon, and the acreage planned as site for a new church on Cherry Hill between Sheldon and Canton Center.

Visitors will be welcomed between 3 and 5 p.m. by couples who will show both the church and the house on the Cherry Hill property to which Rev. Jones and his wife and two daughters will move this summer.

Teams of the church will serve refreshments on the lawn beside the church.

GRACE BAPTIST began late last year, holding its first services Sunday, Nov. 5, in Plymouth Central School.

The Galilean Baptist Missions, a Grand Rapids organization that exists primarily to establish churches and has financed the start of 60 of them in Michigan, helped the new congregation purchase both properties.

For several months, the congregation that now includes about 40 families has been holding morning and evening Sunday services and Wednesday prayer meetings in the Ford Road chapel and working at other hours to improve the building.

New windows, a change in the door arrangement, carpeting for the sanctuary, paneling for the walls, a lowered ceiling with fluorescent lighting and antiquing of pews and plants are just a few of the improvements in the old facility building most recently used by an Assembly of God congregation.

Before the end of the year, the congregation hopes to add a one-story building behind the church to provide room for church school classes.

"Right now one of our families moves in a trailer for the nursery each Sunday," Rev. Jones said, "and we have two Sunday school classes that meet outside. If it rains, we're up a creek."

THE YOUNG clergymen, who left the position of youth director in First Baptist Church of Wayne to organize the new congregation, is



A NEW PODIUM is moved into place by Walt Ellis (left) for the Rev. James Jones, pastor of Grace Baptist Church, Canton Township. It's just in time for the new church's open house June 11.

enthusiastic about its prospects.

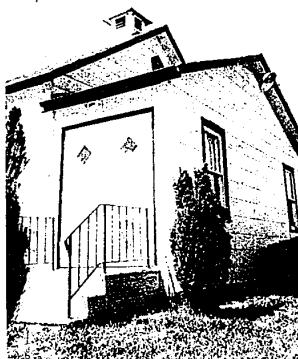
"I was brought up in a large church and have always been associated with large churches," he said. "After a few months with this small congregation I don't think I'd go back to the other situation."

"In six months I've seen amazing growth on the part of people in the parish; it's like a family."

Rev. Jones said an unusual feature of Grace Baptist is that attendance tends to be greater for Sunday evening services than for those on Sunday morning, and that midweek prayer meetings sometimes draw the largest groups. He added that the congregation has been generous in financial support and that one young service man regularly sends \$100 a month, more than 25 per cent of his paycheck.

CHURCH FAMILIES come from Westland and Wayne at this time, Rev. Jones said, but he anticipates more from the Canton and Plymouth areas as the expected building boom there develops.

"If we do have a great expansion," Rev. Jones said, "I think I'd be inclined to start again with a small group. It's a different atmosphere from a big church -- you lose something in bigness."



THE EXTERIOR and new doorway of Grace Baptist. (Observer photos by Bob Woodring)

He had high praise for the Pointe Memorial Presbyterian Church, which has helped with the loan of song books and the gift of a magnifying machine and a piano. A great deal of help in remodeling has come from

Belleville contractor Clarence Brown and his employee, Walt Ellis, a member of the Manchester Baptist Church. Rev. Jones said the church is founded on Peter's testimony about Jesus that "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God." And that Grace Baptist's Sunday schedule includes Sunday school at 9:45 a.m., morning workshop at 11 and evening worship at 7 p.m. Wednesday services are at 7 p.m.

The Sisterhood of Congregation Beth Abraham-Hillel will host an installation dinner at 12 noon, Wednesday, June 14, in the synagogue, 5075 W. Maple, Birmingham.

The newly-elected officers are Mrs. Charles Rubin, president; Mrs. Sidney Golden, second; Rev. Mrs. Sam Harnick, third vice president; Mrs. Irving Michaels, treasurer; Mrs. Henry Thumin, financial secretary; Mrs. Manfred Lehman, recording secretary; Mrs. Samuel Portner, corresponding secretary; and Mrs. Phil Freedman and Mrs. Leon Mondry, mailing secretaries.

Mrs. Sheldon Fishman of Southfield is installation and luncheon arrangements chairman, and Mrs. Jack Fishman of Huntington Woods will serve as installing officer.

Cantor Shabtai Ackerman and associate Cantor Israel Fuchs will present a musical program.

She belongs to the Grosses.

The Sisterhood of Pointe Memorial Presbyterian Church, and received an honorary membership to the board of National Missions and a certificate of recognition as an associate in Christian education.

The former Mary Grace James, she was born in Detroit and grew up in Iron Mountain. She graduated from the National College of Education in Evanston, Ill., and taught in elementary schools in Michigan.

She and her husband, Fred, a special assistant to the PHA commissioner in HUD, have two grown children.

She belongs to the Grosses.

Speaker Rev. Leland Kennedy from South Bend, Indiana Lesson: Acts 28

7 p.m.

Special Program presented by Gideon Class

FREE BUS TRANSPORTATION TO SUNDAY SCHOOL Call 256-3337

10:30 a.m. 11 a.m. 12 p.m.

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