

Presbytery launches drive to handle population growth Series: RELIGION DIGEST

[CITY Edition]

St. Petersburg Times - St. Petersburg, Fla.

Date: Apr 22, 1989

Start Page: 5.E

Section: RELIGION

Text Word Count: 848

Document Text

ST. PETERSBURG - The Southwest Florida Presbytery, the regional organization of the Presbyterian Church-U.S.A., has launched a \$3.2-million capital fund drive to purchase land for eight new churches and a new regional conference center. Campaign co-chairmen Lee R. Hodges of Pinellas Park and the Rev. Louis F. Lunardini of Tampa said nearly \$1.5-million has already been raised among individuals and churches in the 109-church, 53,000-member presbytery. Their announcement noted that rapid population growth in the presbytery, which stretches from Yankeetown on the north to Bonita Springs on the south and Haines City on the east, prompted the campaign. The eight new church sites are earmarked for Hernando, Pasco and Hillsborough counties in the northern half of the region and for Manatee, Sarasota and Lee counties in the south. The new conference center will be in the southern portion, since the Cederkirk Conference Center in Hillsborough County already serves the northern area. Passover program on cable CLEARWATER - ``Passover - A Family Celebration,`` a television show produced locally and sponsored by Temple B'nai Israel (Reform) of Clearwater, is being broadcast at noon Saturdays and at 7 p.m. Mondays during April on Vision Cable's Channel 24. The 30-minute program explains and demonstrates the Passover seder, the ritual meal that is the centerpiece of the Jewish observance of Passover. The eight-day observance began last Wednesday and concludes Thursday. **Two get humanitarian awards TAMPA - Two Tampa Bay area businessmen recently appointed to ambassadorships by President George Bush have been named the 1989 recipients of the Humanitarian Award of the National Conference of Christians and Jews (NCCJ). Melvin F. Sembler and Joseph Zappala will be honored at the annual NCCJ awards dinner on May 2 at the Hyatt Westshore Hotel in Tampa. Sembler, who is the ambassador-designate to Australia, heads the Sembler Co., shopping center developers. He and his wife, Betty, were among the founders of Straight Inc., a Pinellas County-based drug rehabilitation program for teen-agers. Sembler also founded the national ``Kids Say kNOW`` anti-drug-abuse program for the International Council of Shopping Centers. Zappala, ambassador-designate to Spain, was among the founders of the Pinellas Association for Retarded Citizens and is currently president of Straight Inc. He heads Joseph Zappala and Associates, an investment and land development company. The awards dinner, the principal annual fund-raising event for the Tampa Bay Chapter, NCCJ, is open the public. Tickets are \$150 each. Tables of 10 can be reserved. For reservations and other details, call Mary Anne Reilly at 222-4600 in Tampa or 823-2467 in Pinellas County.** Seminar on death, dying ST. PETERSBURG - A daylong seminar on ``Death and Dying: Decisions and Support at the Bedside`` will be offered May 5 at All Children's Hospital Education Conference Center, 701 Fourth St. S, St. Petersburg. The seminar will focus on legal, ethical and religious as well as physical concerns related to death and dying. It is co-sponsored by the Community Hospital Education Council, University of South Florida College of Medicine, All Children's Hospital and Bayfront Medical Center. Continuing education credit will be available for health care professionals. Registration is required by May 1. The fee of \$15 includes lunch. Call 893-6156 in St. Petersburg. Singles seminar next Saturday ST. PETERSBURG - Chris Eaton, founder and executive director of Single Purpose Ministries, will be the keynote speaker for a Singles Leadership Training Seminar, set for 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. next Saturday at First United Methodist Church, 212 Third St. N, St. Petersburg. The seminar, open to ministers and lay volunteer staff members of all denominations, will offer each participant four workshops from a selection of 10 dealing with issues of concern to single adult ministries. Other speakers will include leaders of singles ministries in Orlando, Clearwater and St. Petersburg. The seminar fee of \$5 includes lunch. Registration is required by Tuesday by calling the Rev. Joe McLaren at 894-4661. Concert a centennial event ST. PETERSBURG - The Cathedral Oratorio Choir of St. Peter's Episcopal Cathedral, 140 Fourth St. N, will present Handel's The Messiah, with soloists and orchestra, at 3 p.m. Sunday as a special event of the cathedral's centennial year. Choristers from other Episcopal churches in the Southwest Florida Diocese will join the choir in three of the choruses of Handel's classic work. The performance is directed by Roberta Pemble Poellein. The four soloists, all former singers at the cathedral, are pursuing professional singing careers. They are soprano Mary Diana, contralto

<http://pqasb.pqarchiver.com/tampabay/access/50439948.html?FMT...> Presbytery launches drive to handle population growth Series%3A R...

Paula LoVerne, bass Henry Runey and tenor James Doing. Free will offering. Deaf programs to be discussed TAMPA - Interpreters and deaf persons from throughout the Roman Catholic Diocese of St. Petersburg are invited to a meeting at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday in the St. John's Room of Incarnation Church, W Hillsborough Avenue at Webb Road, Tampa. Plans and suggestions for activities for the deaf will be discussed. The meeting is sponsored by the Diocesan Office for Persons with Disabilities, directed by Jane M. Maher. For details, call 221-0360 in Tampa or 345-3338 in St. Petersburg. - Compiled by Times staff writer

[[Illustration]

BLACK AND WHITE PHOTO, (3); Caption: Melvin F. Sembler; Joseph Zappala; Chris Eaton

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Awards nourish hope for increased brotherhood

[CITY Edition]

St. Petersburg Times - St. Petersburg, Fla.

Author: JEANNE PUGH

Date: May 6, 1989

Start Page: 2.E

Section: RELIGION

Text Word Count: 713

Document Text

People of different cultural, ethnic and religious backgrounds can, and must, learn to live peaceably together in America if our concept of a pluralistic democracy is to survive.

That was the central message heard Tuesday night at the 25th anniversary celebration of the Tampa Bay Region, National Conference of Christians and Jews (NCCJ). The event was the annual Brotherhood Awards banquet honoring individuals who have shown a capacity for humanitarian service rendered without religious or any other kind of prejudice.

This year's honorees are the two new ambassador nominees from the Tampa Bay area: Joe Zappala, due to serve in Spain, a condominium developer, past president of the Pinellas Association for Retarded Children and current president of Straight Inc., the St. Petersburg-based drug treatment program for teen-agers; and Mel Sembler, bound for Australia, a shopping center developer, co-founder and current national chairman of Straight Inc. and founder of a nationwide anti-drug program sponsored by the International Council of Shopping Centers.

The symbolic part of their selection as NCCJ honorees is that Zappala, a Christian, and Sembler, a Jew, have been friends for more than 20 years and have demonstrated that ethnic and religious differences need not be obstacles to personal, business or community-service relationships.

The whole tone of the NCCJ celebration was a refreshing contrast to some other recent gatherings in the area that have focused more on reinforcing divisions in the religious community than on mending them.

That difference was underscored by a slide/sound presentation that recalled the history of religious intolerance in this country. It noted that the NCCJ was founded in 1928 by Supreme Court Chief Justice Charles Evans Hughes as a direct result of the anti-Catholic movement that arose when Alfred E. Smith, the Catholic governor of New York, ran for president.

The film cited many of the gains made in recent decades against racial and religious prejudice. But it also cautioned that prejudice and injustice have not been eliminated - so the work of organizations such as the NCCJ must go on.

A very moving segment of the program was a brief service, led by Rabbi Ira Youdovin of St. Petersburg, marking Yom Hashoah, the annual Day of Remembrance honoring Jewish and non-Jewish victims of the Nazi Holocaust.

The program ended with an announcement by Gerard J. Curley, NCCJ chairman for Pinellas County, of plans for a new Interfaith Volunteer Program designed to encourage more interaction among people of different faiths. Curley said he got the idea when he heard about a Jewish woman who volunteered to serve at the St. Vincent de Paul soup kitchen on Christmas Day so a Christian volunteer could be home with her family. Curley envisions a nationwide network of Christians, Jews, Moslems, Buddhists and whatever, filling in for each other on their separate holy days.

That kind of action, Curley said, "embodies the essence of the hope of NCCJ." It ought to be the hope, as well, of all Americans. Prayer breakfast sponsorship clarified

The 1989 Suncoast Mayors Prayer Breakfast, held April 26 in St. Petersburg, was sponsored by an ad hoc committee of Christian business and professional men and not by the Christian Business Men's Committee (CBMC), as I reported.

A.J. Vander Meulen, coordinator of the event, said this week that the CBMC withdrew from official sponsorship of the breakfast last year, although members of the organization remain on the ad hoc committee. The CBMC withdrawal came

after the organization was criticized by non-Christian public officials for the strong evangelical Christian focus of the event, he said.

The CBMC of Tampa has continued its sponsorship of the annual breakfast in Hillsborough County, however. That event has been renamed the Greater Tampa Bay Leadership Prayer Breakfast since 1988 when Tampa's Jewish mayor, Sandy Freedman, announced she would no longer attend.

Vander Meulen said that, in arranging this year's Pinellas County breakfast, "I never gave a thought to who was on the program." He noted that in some previous years the program included Catholic and Episcopal priests and at least one rabbi.

"I guess we should have done it this year, although we never set out to do anything ecumenical," he said. "I've decided that, in the future, if I have anything to do with it, we'll have only laymen on the program."

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Pets are fine, but not their veterinary bills Series: NEWS & VIEWS

[CITY Edition]

St. Petersburg Times - St. Petersburg, Fla.

Author: BETTY JEAN MILLER

Date: May 22, 1989

Start Page: 6

Section: CITY TIMES

Text Word Count: 738

Document Text

I sat outside the veterinarian's office in Melbourne, waiting for my daughter to come out with some medicine for the mostly cocker granddog. This is the dog we found on the streets of Eau Gallie, and we are beginning to understand why she was deserted. Don't misunderstand, we love her. But she has all kinds of skin, ear and digestive problems. An expensive founding.

Ten minutes at a veterinarian's office is always worth a story, and today's story was happening in the station wagon next to me. A mom sat in the front passenger seat, a tiny girl in a car seat in the back seat.

A curly headed 4-year-old boy burst out of the office door with ``Mom! Mom! guess what! Tripper's gettin' better and better!``

Next out the office door was a 6-year-old curly headed boy. He was circling around a daddy who was gently carrying Tripper, a droopy-looking wire-haired terrier who appeared still half-anesthetized. Tripper was placed gently on the back seat on towels, the hovering boys relocated to the back of the wagon, and off they drove, probably \$100-or-so poorer.

I miss having a dog, but I don't miss all those un-deductible medical bills.

The All Children's Guild go-getters had reason to cheer at their May 11 installation luncheon, presided over by Fay Baynard, St. Petersburg Branch president and overall chairwoman. The group learned that the St. Petersburg Branch had brought in \$108,000 for the hospital; the Beach Branch, under president Joyce Samagochian, brought in \$12,675; the Seminole Branch, with president Nancy Cross, \$21,800; and the Palm Harbor, under president Frankie Hancock, \$23,900. My calculator says that's \$166,375. Hurray for you all!

Before you drive off across Florida, here's a helpful idea from caller George Adzema, who read our recent complaint about lovebugs: Put two sheets of plastic wrap across your windshield before you go. It'll take two people to do it, he says, stretching one strip across the top half and another across the bottom, but if it rains, the windshield wipers will still work on it.

``And,`` he says, ``if they get too bad, you can just stop by the roadside and pull the wrap off and put more on.``

By the way, don't try this across the radiator. It'll definitely overheat. Bug screens are still the best method for shielding these.

Some 220 volunteers were invited to the St. Petersburg Historical Society Museum's Appreciation Tea on Thursday afternoon. These are the folks who sort, clean, set up displays and collections, conduct tours, keep up the library, and staff the gift shop at this building full of treasures on the approach to The Pier. You can join their number. Call 894-1052.

Two Eckerd College professors are about to leave for far places, both via the annual Hannes Mittermayr Travel Grant. Dr. Tom West, the 1987-88 award recipient, leaves this week to study health and healing while traveling in Singapore, India, Nepal and Tibet, where he has been granted a visit with the dalai lama. He also plans to climb to the base camp of Mount Everest, which is at 19,300 feet.

Dr. Victoria Baker, 1988-89 award winner, leaves June 10 for Senegal in West Africa, an area where she used to work. She'll spend six weeks doing comparative research in rural schools.

At Wednesday night's St. Petersburg Rotary party, ``Celebration for Children,`` guests each paid \$100, proceeds from which were given to representatives from the Angelus, Straight Inc. and the Family YMCA. A \$5,000 check went to each.

Gene Windham, new executive vice president/division chief operating officer for C & S Bank, was master of ceremonies. St. Petersburg City Council member Bob Stewart, new executive director of the YMCA, said he'd vowed to make no decisions during his first month on the job, but he decided to accept the check.

Richard Winning, at the party with his wife, Diane, said receipts at Derby Lane, St. Petersburg Kennel Club this year were down only 3 percent in spite of the lottery. Winning was pleased with this, says this is the best any track in the state has done in this initial year of the state lottery.

A 5-year-old and her mother took part in a schoolchildren-and-parents production. The little one, who sang, complained to her mom that she didn't receive an award.

"Well, I was in it, and I didn't get an award," said her mother consolingly.

"Yes, but you weren't any good."

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Christmas-time thief taught victim a lesson in trust Series: Letters

[CITY Edition]

St. Petersburg Times - St. Petersburg, Fla.

Date: Dec 22, 1989

Start Page: 2.2.2

Section: CLEARWATER TIMES; LARGO-SEMINOLE TIMES; NORTH PINELLAS TIMES

Text Word Count: 1007

Document Text

Editor: I want to wish a very Merry Christmas to the young man who felt it necessary to relieve me of my handbag on Dec. 15 while I was paying for my gasoline purchase at the Majik Market/Tenneco station.

I remember him very clearly, since I entered as he was departing. At the time, I asked myself why does he look so agitated and in such a hurry?

I usually have my vehicle locked up, but I was warm and had the window down on the passenger side, which was away from the store entrance.

I wondered why that door was open when I got back into my van. At first I shrugged it off, thinking I just hadn't closed it well enough before I left home.

It became apparent as I was traveling down U.S. 19, looking about my van's interior for my purse. Door open - purse missing - somebody nabbed my bag!

Immediate U-turn, return to scene of the crime.

It was fortunate that the next customers collected the few things that fell from the bag (a \$5 value two years ago) onto the ground at the pump. The thief missed a couple dozen rarely used credit cards. And I am most grateful that my address book fell out - I have many overseas addresses in it.

My greatest sorrow is the irreplaceable photographs - my older sister and I pictured together for my first Christmas in 1955; the last group picture taken of my siblings and me and their offspring before my younger sister's death; elementary school pictures of me, relatives, etc.

I think I'm angrier at myself for trusting my fellow man.

To the thief I say, "You've got yourself two canceled credit cards, checks to a closed account, canceled check-cashing cards, a driver's license with a bad photo of me and other IDs that won't do you any good. If you use my validated sandwich club card to purchase a sandwich, I hope you choke on it.

"As for the cash, if you use it to make someone's Christmas merrier because you bought someone - maybe a child - a gift, I guess I could forgive you. If you wanted to make yourself merrier by buying drugs, I feel sorry for you.

"I had bags of stuff in the back of the van to be delivered to a homeless shelter. You could have tried asking for something.

"The clerk at the store and I remember you. The Sheriff's Department has a description. It cost me two and a half hours of waiting to file a crime report and have the van dusted for prints (we got some good ones) as it was a felony you committed.

"I had no change for calls so I had to charge all local calls to my home. Oh - I canceled the GTE long-distance calling card, too, so you can't call home for Christmas."

I guess I can look on the bright side. I had been looking for a new purse, I was waiting to order a different style checks, and now I can give the driver's license bureau another chance at taking a decent picture of me.

To the thief, "My heart aches for my loss, but more so for poor souls such as yourself who must resort to such criminal acts. How can you live with yourself?

"Feel free to return the unnecessary items C.O.D. or just drop them by the house. Don't forget to wipe your prints off if it

makes you feel safer. If you haven't already trashed everything, do it where it can be found so I can get some of it back.

``This violation of my personal belongings is a hard lesson learned in trust. I'm going to have a great 1990. I hope yours turns out better than your 1989 appears to be.`` Debbie Earney, Clearwater Report good works of Scientologists

Editor: I read with interest the recent article on Marilea Levinson of the Safety Harbor Friends of the Library.

There are chapters of the Friends of the Library all over the United States. In Los Angeles, for example, the Friends of the Library assist the libraries in many fund-raising projects and are well thought of by the librarians and the city officials.

A year ago in Los Angeles, the main downtown library was damaged by fire and many of the books and other materials were destroyed, as well as major parts of the building.

A new library was created to replace the one that had been destroyed, and near the end of this mammoth project the library asked for donations of books and materials before the opening of the new library.

Members of the Church of Scientology in Los Angeles donated many Spanish and English books for this project, and participated in an awards ceremony validating the librarians for their efforts in bringing the library back to the people.

In many cities of this country, Scientologists assist people and groups to improve life in this troubled world. Assisting libraries and other such institutions is only a small part of the activities that Scientologists engage in.

It appears that the newspapers in reporting the news tend to dismiss or ignore the good that many groups do. The Church of Scientology in Clearwater, for instance, recently assisted in sponsoring a downtown anti-drug march as part of the ``Clear the Drugs Out of Clearwater`` campaign.

There were many representatives of anti-drug groups involved in this march - Operation PAR (Parental Awareness and Responsibility), Straight Inc. and PCAS (Professional Comprehensive Addiction Services).

The march was held during the national Red Ribbon Week. Yet, despite the media being there, only Channel 8 reported on this march.

I would think that good news would be reported in the papers just as the disasters and the politics are. It would be a much happier world if a person could wake up to (a headline like) 2,000 new books donated to library instead of Safety Harbor Library mail investigated. Mary Story, Church of Scientology, Clearwater

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