R.S.V.P. With Marie

By Marie P. COOKE
Reflections Editor

"For the mother is and must be, whether she knows it or not, the greatest, strongest and most lasting teacher her children have." Hannah Whitall Smith

We can all define what a mother is, some of us more eloquently than others, but in the final analysis the definition is universal. But how about the role of motherin'?

How many different explanations have you heard on how a mother should rear her children? Those of us who are or hope someday to be mothers have our own personal views on the subject . . . what are yours?

The Rev. Miss Agnes Alston is the coordinator of religious activities at Gillis Memorial Church and a guidance counselor at Greenspring Junior-Senior High School, told an audience of grandmothers, mothers, daughters and some non-mothers at the Bethel AME Church Mother-Daughter Brunch on Saturday, that the role of motherin' is more than just being a friend. In her address to the capacity-filled audience, the Rev. Miss Alston, spoke on "Revival of the Christian Home: Our Fundamental Need," which she said did not involve technology, government, "it's more than civic reform," and could not come under the heading of a church revival . . . it comes from the home.

"What is needed is a revival of an institution . . . the home," she said. "Good discipline in the home is essential to good government; it is the maker of the church, the nation."

"The home has been in a state of decline," said the speaker, and pointed to the problems of society stemming from the lackadaisical manner in which the homes are run. "The home is fighting for its life . . . Christian homes are fighting with homes where there is no Christianity," and as the Rev. Miss Alston emphasized, the black Christian home is suffering even more.

In order to achieve the revival of the Christian home, the Rev. Miss Alston said children must become more involved with the household operation involving rent, mortgage and utility payments; clothing, food and medical costs and must become familiar with how to shop for groceries, etc. She termed it family interaction, meaning assuming responsibility for being part of the family.

The speaker closed her remarks with a message to the teen women: "All the things you are doing as teenagers will help you to be the kind of woman you want to be."

The speaker's message inspired her listeners . . . they left knowing there was a job to do. But the program didn't end there; there was a dance presentation by Mrs. Eleanor Bryant Graham and daughter, Chere; poetry and art exhibit by Mrs. Vivian Castain and daughter Denise; greetings by Mrs. Cardrienne Perrin Griffin and daughter Cheryl. Mrs. Mary Robinson and her god-daughter Cecilia led the group in song . . . it was another glorious day at Bethel, a day of motherin'.

Breakfast was delicious. It was prepared by Bethel women Pat Holtsclaw, Elizabeth Blackwell and Shirley Mays.

The Mother-Daughter Brunch was one of the many activities leading up to the Women's Day Observance '76 to be held March 28. Chairperson of the entire Women's Day program is the dynamic Cecilia W. Bryant, wife of Bethel's pastor, Dr. John Bryant. Other committee persons, not new to any of us, are: Celonia Walden, Mary J. Henry, Lorraine King, Sylvia Moore, Mary Robinson, Elizabeth Carter and Delores Thomas. The Observance '76 Committee will present the Ritual of KwanduluKwa Ntu ("going back into history"), a Tribute to Christian Youth on March 26, 7:30 p.m. at the church.

(Editor's Note: This writer received much inspiration at the Saturday program, so much in fact, I wanted-needed more. So on Sunday I attended the 11 a.m. church service and got it . . . thank you Rev. Bryant!)

AN INSPIRING message was delivered by the Rev. Miss Agnes Alston to the mothers and daughters who attended the brunch on Saturday at Bethel AME Church. (AFRO staff photos by Benjamin M. Phillips)

—Community calendar

Continued from page 33

March 19

Women of Bethel AME Church sponsor fashion show featuring spring wear from Pauline Brooks Boutique and hats by Nell Sheridan, Pimlico Elementary School, 7:30 p.m.

Testimonial dinner in honor of Henry C. Johnson, retired principal of Carver Vocational Technical High School, Blue Crest North, 401 Reisterstown Rd., 6:30 p.m.

March 20

"Women and the Law," a seminar-workshop sponsored by Women of Bethel AME Church, Bethel Church, Druid Hill Ave., 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Discussions on employment discrimination, consumer education and family law. Guest speakers to include black women lawyers.

March 21

Parents Club of GBMC Community and Health Clinic presents St. Bernadine's Gospel Choir in concert, St. Vincent de Paul Church, 20 N. Front St., 6 p.m. Gloria Watson, president.

March 26

Miles W. Connor Alumni Chapter, Virginia Union University presents Annual Scholarship Dinner Dance, North Point Blvd., 10 p.m.-2 a.m.

New York Theatre Company in "The Fantasticks," and New York based Voices, Inc., Martin Luther King Communications Arts Center, Bowie State College, 8 p.m.

African Ritual-Kwandulukwa Tu-Rites of Passage into Womanhood, Bethel AME Church, Druid Hill Ave.

GRANDMOTHERS, TOO — Mrs. Margaret Evans brought her eight-year-old granddaughter, Cathy Evans to the Mother-Daughter Brunch on Saturday at Bethel AME Church. Cathy is the daughter of Rodney S. Evans, Mrs. Evans' son.

AT BETHEL AME CHURCH

Women's observance '76

ALL AGES THERE — The Mother-Daughter Brunch held last Saturday at Bethel AME Church served as one of the Women's Day Observances sponsored by the church. In these photos are (left) from L to R: Little Kia Edith Graham, age 3, daughter of Mrs. Eleanor Bryant Graham, who is to the right. The little fellow in the center is Mark Seaborne, 2, Mrs. Graham is the sister of Bethel's minister, the Rev. Dr. John Bryant. At left: Mrs. Frances Waters, Mrs. Nina Bean, Mrs. Francina B. Waters, the elder Mrs. Waters' daughter-in-law and her baby daughter, Ayana Waters.

Read R.S.V.P. with Marie for details about the brunch.

(AFRO staff photos by Benjamin M. Phillips)

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AFRO Bridal Register

Mrs. Bernice C. Brown has announced the engagement of her daughter Dr. Marsha W. Brown to Hubert Collins, son of Mr. and Mrs. Vincent Collins.

Dr. Brown is also the daughter of the late Elwood Brown.

The bride-to-be is a graduate of Howard University where she received both her B.S. and MD degrees (Howard Medical School, 1974). Dr. Brown is currently doing her residency in internal medicine at Mercy Hospital.

Mr. Collins received his B.S. degree from Coppin State College in 1975 and is employed as a pharmaceutical representative.

The couple is planning to be wed in April.

* * *

Mr. and Mrs. James Westherly of Salisbury have announced the engagement of their daughter Adrienne to Dr. Robert B. McDaniel son of Dr. and Mrs. Robert W. McDaniel of Baltimore.

Miss Weatherly is a senior nursing student at the University of Maryland and will be graduated in June.

Her paternal grandparents are the late Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Weatherly of Manoken, Md.; her maternal grandparents are Howard Wharton and the late Mrs. Ida Wharton of Accomac, Va.

DR. MARSHA W. BROWN
engagement announced

(AFRO photo by Norma L. Spencer)

Dr. McDaniel received his pre-medical degree from the Johns Hopkins University and his medical degree from the University of Maryland. He is currently doing his residency at the St. Agnes Hospital.

His paternal grandparents are Dr. and Mrs. Robert A. McDaniel of Connellsville, Pa. and his maternal grandparents are the late Dr. G. Raymer Browne and Mrs. Edna S. Browne of Baltimore and Washington, D.C.

* * *

Mrs. Irma B. Davis has announced the engagement of her daughter, Miss Gloria Williams Davis, to Reginald O. McClurkin, son of Mrs. Susie Douglas.

The future bride is a graduate of Northwestern High School, and has attended the University of Maryland, College Park.

Mr. McClurkin, a 1972 graduate of Northwestern High has attended the American Academy of Dramatic Arts in New York City.

Plans are being made for a July wedding.

MISS GLORIA W. DAVIS
engagement announced

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SHEA-DODDS — William C., 35, 3723 Elm; Dorothy, 31, 980 Elm.
GEORGE-HARRIS — William E., 54, 606 W. 32nd; Gladys F., 45, 3631 Roland.
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BIRTHDAY PARTY — Mrs. Alice Neal recently was feted on the occasion of her 75th birthday. The honoree is shown here with her daughter and two grandchildren. Standing L to R: Miss Carolyn Stubbs, Mrs. Alice Stubbs and James Stubbs.
(AFRO Staff photo by Norma L. Spencer)

10th year reunion

The 1966 graduating class of Southern High School is planning its 10th year reunion. All interested persons may contact: Jackie Merzendorf, 752-8435; Cathy (Kitchner) Maenner, 255-0091; Darlene (Griffith) Bloxom, 752-5188, or Pat (Moon) Maley, 987-5789.

Dr. Richard Alms speaks on family relationships

Can closer relationships and better communications between young and senior members of a family be achieved?

Dr. Richard L. Alms, executive director of the Lutheran Mission Society, believes they can, and he will explain his views on the "Friday Morning in Highlandtown" program at the Patterson Theatre, Friday, Feb. 27.

Dr. Alms will begin his talk on "Family Relationships" at 10:30 a.m. to noon followed by a question-and-answer period in which members of the audience will have the opportunity to ask questions of the speaker and share their own family experiences.

The event, which is free and open to the public, is sponsored by the Community College of Baltimore and local groups.

In his talk, Dr. Alms, who has had considerable experience in family and group counseling, will discuss practical methods for building closer family ties.

He will show the importance of older people continuing to associate and communicate with their children, grandchildren and other young persons.

In addition, he will make some recommendations for reducing that awful feeling of being unwanted and being isolated which so many of the elderly have, according to Mr. Stanley J. Frank, coordinator of the weekly programs at the Patterson Theatre.

Focusing on the responsibilities older persons as well as younger persons have for making family life successful and harmonious, Dr. Alms will describe the many social and cultural events in which both young and old can participate, as he believes each has a contribution to make. He will show the need for housing projects to be developed with young families as well as older ones living in different sections of winds, yet housed under one roof and associating together for mutual benefits.

In giving the basic reasons for the present situation for older persons, Dr. Alms will show the importance of the older people in the family in previous

(Continued on Page 37)

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Coleman's anniversary

Mr. and Mrs. Mack Coleman (Louise) of Chelsea Terrace recently marked their 37th wedding anniversary with the renewing of their marriage vows.

The impressive ceremony was performed by the Rev. Eugene Carter. Serving as the couple's attendants were their son, James and his wife, Mrs. Theresa Coleman, who were celebrating their 10th anniversary.

The Mack Colemans are the parents of Mrs. Jessie Cook, Mrs. Lucille Almond, Mack Coleman, Miss Cynthia Coleman and Gregory Coleman. They have 16 grandchildren.

Among the out-of-town guests were Mr. and Mrs. George Cook, Virginia; Mr. and Mrs. James Coleman, New Jersey; Boyd Almond, Virginia; Ms. Celestine Rollins, New York; Mrs. Marie Cheeks, New York; Mr. and Mrs. Horace Coleman, Pittsburgh, Pa.

Local guests were Mr. and Mrs. John Cheeks, Mr. and Mrs. Rufus Bracey, McArthur Cheeks, Mr. and Mrs. Harrison Fuller, Mr. and Mrs. Booker T. Brown, Mr. and Mrs. Lee Moore.

Also, Ms. Viola Francis, Reginald Rollins, Ms. Vanessa Rollins, Ms. Beatrice Bennett, Ms. Shirley Hillrold, Mr. Twevelyn Johnson, and Ms. Sadie Pettigrew.

Ms. Leona Oliver, Wendell Bailey and Ms. June Stokes.

VOWS RENEWED—Mr. and Mrs. Mack (Louise) Coleman are shown here repeating their marriage vows at their 37th anniversary. The Rev. Eugene Carter is officiating.

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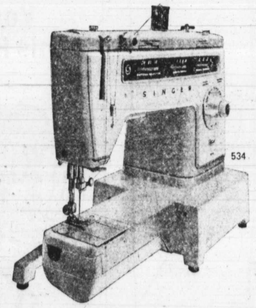

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