The living church

New events and personalities in the Metropolitan Baltimore

A minister speaks out

By Rev. Edgar Carter

(Editor's note: The Rev. Edgar Carter is an associate minister and administrative assistant at Bethel A.M.E. Church where the Rev. Dr. John R. Bryant is pastor.)

Rev. Edgar Carter

In Paris some time ago, a group of young adults rented a hall to hold what they called a "happening." They rolled an automobile onto a makeshift altar and did what they called "sacrificing" it with an axe and pitchfork.

A beautiful girl dressed only in red bikini climbed onto the car's crushed roof where one of the kids covered her body with wads of cooked spaghetti. The young lady picked the spaghetti from her body and flipped the pieces to on-lookers, who made a meal of it.

Also on stage was a group who smashed a plaster reproduction of Rodin's "Thinker." Two girls dressed in cabbage leaves whacked onlookers on the head with badminton rackets. A headless chicken flopped about until drained of its blood. While all this was going on, a sad-faced girl in her late teens stood silently, twisting the arms, legs and heads from little plaster dolls.

It was all part of their search for reality, explained the organizer. Through all this random nonsense of the "happening" they hoped for some word from the great beyond, some incident that would give meaning to life.

Other youth and might I say adults alike seek meaning through drugs, alcohol and sex. Millions chart their future by the stars. Millions more turn at the peril of their lives to a heavy occult. Still others seek answers through the mystical religions of the East such as Yoga, etc.

I remember talking to a member of the Hare Krishna movement on Howard Street and being told that they find meaning through repetitiously chanting the name of their god. "When you chant the Holy Name of God," said the brother, "you feel and experience a certain kind of ecstacy. Happiness because its re-establishing your relationship with God and you're in a spiritual realm."

In their attempt to recapture the allegiance of modern black man, some preachers and even organizations are "playing church," putting on performances little different from the happening in Paris, with its nonsense elements.

Nevertheless, it is hard to trust, much less have faith in traditional religion when we see its proponents and its institutions. There must be a re-examination. Even in our "semi-solid" churches disillusionment is growing, along with a determination to recapture the reality behind religious symbols. Many congregations have broken away from their parent denominations, charging them with apostasy. The Nation of Islam in the West and various forms of the Jesus movement have among others been the recipients of this increasing number of religious dropouts.

I'm convinced, and I witness the same feeling in so many young black believers around me that there is one "happening" that gives meaning to life. As it were, the Gospel writer St. John introduced it very simply. Somehow I feel that he knew that no oratorical or literary flourishes would suffice to embellish it. So he said only, "The Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us."

What is our brother John saying? "Word" is another name for Jesus. It accents his position as the communicator of what God is like. Jesus declared with Holy Boldness, "He that hath seen me hath seen the Faither, and I and my Father are one." He was a letter from God, a letter in human form.

St. James Episcopal Church honors four faithful members

Members of St. James Episcopal Church, Lafayette and Arlington Aves., observed the 154th anniversary of the church on June 4.

As part of the anniversary celebration, a presentation of plaques were given to four citizens who have been confirmed members of the Episcopal church for 50 years.

The honorees were Mesdames Margaret H. Nixon, Vernice W. Reynolds, Hattie D. Tilghman and Ervin M. Case. The Rev. Donald Octavio Wilson is pastor of the church.

St. James Protestant Episcopal Church was organized in 1824 in a room on the corner of Marion and Park Sts., by the Rev. William Levington, the third black ordained to the priesthood of the Episcopal Church.

The first church building was located on North and Saratoga Streets and a year later was incorporated under the laws of Maryland.

In 1836, the pastor of the St. James First African Protestant Episcopal Church died. The church assumed its present name in 1954 by a vote of the congregation.

The old church was condemned and in the fall of 1889, the congregation moved to Howard Chapel, Park Avenue near Dolphin.

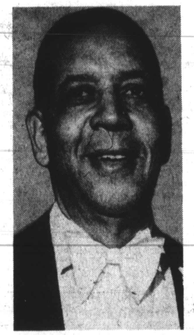
In 1890 the church again relocated on High and Lexington Sts., but it was sold in 1901 to a Jewish congregation for a synagogue.

A new church was being built on Park Avenue and Preston Street, while the members took refuge at 404 Courtland St.

The cornerstone was laid in June 1891 and the first service was held in the new church in October.

It was decided to sell the Park Avenue church and secure the church plant vacated by Ascension Parish on Lafayette and Arlington Aves.

The first services were held at Lafayette and Arlington Avenues, on Easter Sunday, 6 a.m. in 1932.



Rev. Donald O. Wilson

The Rev. George Freeman Bragg Jr., guided the destiny of St. James Church for 49 years from 1891 to his death, March 12, 1940.

Born in North Carolina, Rev. Bragg was one of Baltimore's most well rounded individuals.

Today, St. James Church stands in Lafayette Square not only serving its communicants but the surrounding neighborhoods with St. James Terrace Apartments for senior citizens and Lafayette Square Community Center.

Six months after the death of Rev. Bragg, the vestry called to the rectorship the Rev. Cedric Mills. He brought to St. James a philosophy of living which placed emphasis on human rights and civil action, as well as religion.

He left the parish in 1963 when he was consecrated Bishop of the Virvin Islands by the Rt. Rev. Nobel C. Powell.

The Rev. Donald O. Wilson has served as pastor of St. James since 1963. He and his family came to St. James from St. Matthew's Wilmington, Del., where he served 12 years in the Diocese and community.

The church under Rev. Wilson began needed renewal. New doors were installed thus replacing oak doors that had done their work.

Rev. Wilson has met the challenges of the times with creative and direct leadership. The church has grown from 1,300 communicants in 10 years to over 2,000.

Members and friends of St. James will have their 23rd annual family picnic on June 18 in Buckeystown, Md.

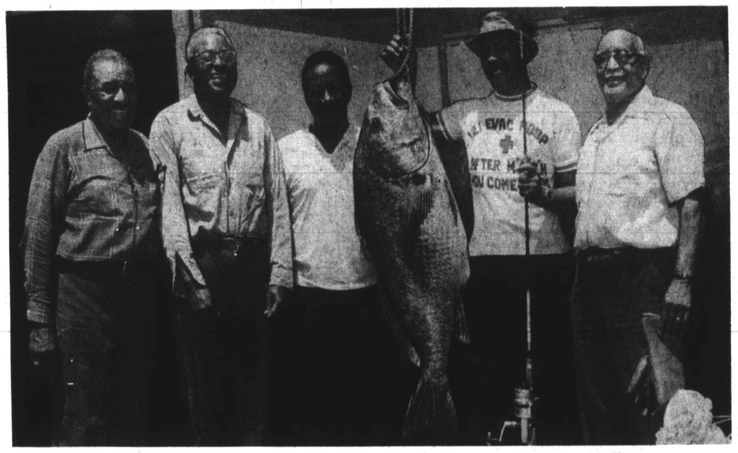
Buses for the picnic will leave from the church after the Eucharist at 8 a.m. The Holy Eucharist will be celebrated at Claggett conference center at 4:30 p.m.

Among activities scheduled for the day will be fishing, baseball, swimming, volleyball and basketball. Refreshments will also be served. Randolph Sydnor is the chairman.

The AFRO's expanded church section is designed to reflect the rich diversity of religious news and views of interest to residents of greater Baltimore and the state of Maryland.

Ministers are invited to send a copy of their Sunday sermon for the column called, "A Minister Speaks Out." Our photographer will take a picture of you to be used with your article.

Send all press releases to The Living Church, AFRO - AMERICAN Newspaper c - o Ms. Pam Widgeon, P.O. Box 1857, Baltimore, Md., 21201 or call 728 - 8200, ext. 71.



CAST YOUR BAIT upon the waters — Two prominent local ministers and friends were in on the biggest catch of the season thus far, when they caught an 80 pound black drum fish. Shown from left, the Rev. Dr. Leonard E. Hicks, Greater New Hope Baptist; the Rev. Wyatt Brown, Holiness Church of America; Nathaniel John, William Hart and Oliver Carson.

Ray of Hope members move to new church

The Rev. Charles Franklin, former pastor of Fountain Baptist Church, 1215 Monument St., says he resigned as pastor of Fountain because, "The Lord called him out."

Since his resignation in December 1977, the 43 - year - old minister organized a new church known as, "The Ray of Hope Baptist Church."

The 130 members first held services at Rev. Franklin's home and then had services at a skating rink in Northeast Baltimore.

After moving drom the skating rink, Rev. Franklin stated we worshiped in the educational center of Israel Baptist Church and marched to our new church home on June 4.

The Ray of Hope Church is now located at Harford Road and Parkside Drive. "It was a feeling of joy and we were able to raise $50,000 to secure the church in such a short period of time," said Rev. Franklin.

According to Rev. Franklin, members were able to raise the money without selling dinners and other items. "Some members gave gifts to the church, while others made loans that will be paid back in three years.

The Ray of Hope Church is known as the "miracle church because in such a short time we were able to do so much," says Rev. Franklin.

Speaking of his plans for the future as pastor of the church, he says, "We plan to bring hope to the city and community and will feed and cloth the hungry. "It is our hope to give a ray of hope to those despondent."

Baptist youth awards

An award ceremony was held recently for the young people's department of the United Baptist Convention of Maryland.

The affair was held at Mount Moriah Baptist Church with the Rev. Arthur E. Jones speaking. Mrs. Minnie Washington is director of the youth department.

Awards were given to teenagers who have been active and attended all meetings. Mrs. Washington, of St. Timothy's Christian Baptist Church, received a gift from the youth for the dedicated and outstanding work she had done with the committee.

Churches that received awards were the young people's department of Pentecost Baptist Church, and Jones Tabernacle Baptist Church youth department.

Individual awards were given to Misses Paulette Zollicoffer, Ruth Frailing, Christopher Washington, Michelle Clark, Debra Clark; Chaundrae Gordon, Beverly Hendricks, Debara Washington and Shelia King.

Miss Robin Tatum and Debra Washington were presented plaques for superior service to the department.

Other awards were presented to Miss Madeline Miller and Ms. Myrna T. Powell.

The group will sponsor a special celebration for all Baptist teenagers who graduate this year. The affair will be held July 1 at the Baptist Center, 1434 McCulloh St., at 3 p.m.

Harlow Fullwood, of Concord Baptist Church, will be the speaker. Mrs. Elaine White and Mrs. Hattie J. Jackson are chairmen of the affair. All graduates are asked to send their names in for the program by June 20.

Future projects for the Baptist youth include a reading tutorial program conducted by Mrs. Washington and a communication course with Mrs. Louise Lassiter presideing.

Other activities scheduled for the year include a Sunbeam Convocation with Mrs. Sara Richardson and Mrs. Esther Brown as chairmen.

The annual walk-a-thon will be held at Druid Hill Park in September.

Metro church briefs

The Youth Usher Board of Douglas Memorial Church, Madison and Lafayette Avenue will present the youth and children's choir in concert on June 11, 6 p.m. at the church.

Also featured will be the Handbell Choir of Loch Raven United Methodist Church. Ms. Gina McDonald and Ms. Patricia Mooney are chairpersons. Mrs. Beulah Smith is advisor.

The Rev. George W. Baynard, pastor of Shiloh Christian Community Church at Lombard and Catherine Sts., will be honored June 10, 7:30 p.m. at a banquet. The affair will be held at the Holiday Inn.

The Rosebud Circle of Pennsylvania Avenue A.M.E. Zion Church, Pennsylvania Avenue and Dolphin Street will sponsor a gospel program on June 11, 6 p.m. at the church.

Prophet M. Jonah Jebu-Applah, the general head prophet of the Musamda Disco Christo Church in Monzano, Ghana West Africa, will be the 6 p.m., speaker at Bethel A.M.E. Church, June 11, Druid Hill Avenue and Lanvale Street. The Rev. Dr. John R. Bryant is pastor of Bethel.

A dinner will be held June 10 at East Baltimore Deliverance Center, 1001-05 Caroline St., for the benefit of Women's Day.

Mrs. Lena Jones of Washington and Mrs. Elnora Simpson will be guest soloists. Bill Moss and the Celestral Singers along with the Rev. Jimmy Smith and the Jimmy Smith Singers will also be participating. The Rev. Marshall H. Strickland is pastor.

Youth revival services will be held June 9 at Carmel Baptist Church, 2230 Harford Rd., The Rev. Oscar Stancil is pastor. Speaker for the 7:30 p.m. service will be the Rev. Duane Simmons.

Sponsors are Mesdames Mary Willingham, Irene Lockett, Mary Bouldin, Irene Hadley.

PROVIDENCE INSPIRATIONAL BAPTIST CHURCH
FREMONT AND EDMONDSON
BALTIMORE, MD. 21201

SUNDAY, JUNE 11, 1978

11 A.M.—Morning Worship

Guest Preacher

REV. CHARLES F. LEADUM
Founder & President
BALTIMORE COLLEGE OF THE BIBLE, INC.

MR. RUFUS SULLIVAN
Chairman Of The Deacon Board

PENNSYLVANIA AVE. AME ZION CHURCH
"The Church of the Burning Heart"
Corner Pennsylvania Ave. and Dolphin St.
SUNDAY, JUNE 11, 1978
10:30 A.M.-Sacrement Of Baptism
11:00 A.M.—Theme: "What Christianity Has To Offer"
Sermon by Rve. Marshall H. Strickland
6:00 P.M.—Bill Moss and Celestrial Choir and Jimmy Smith Singer of Balto
A Friendly Welcome To All
REV. MARSHALL H. STRICKLAND, Pastor

Black businesses played big role in building new March Funeral home

The spanking new William C. March Funeral Home Inc., will hold dedication ceremonies Sunday June 11, at its nearly block - long facility just completed at 1101 East North Avenue.

The public is invited to the 4 p.m. ceremony, and to tour the handsome structure afterwards.

"It will be dedicated to those families our firm has served through the years. The opening marks the end of 16 months of construction, and we are happy this day has come, it's like a dream come true," Mr. March said.

Black Baltimore business people played key roles in the dream. Financing for the structure was obtained from black - owned and operated lending institutions, together with the Small Business Administration.

Some $430,000 of the total cost of construction was secured from Advance Federal Savings and Loan Association, representing the largest loan granted by Advance in its 20 - year history. Advance president, Dr. W. O. Bryson Jr., will receive special recognition at the ceremony.

Substantial funds were also acquired from Ideal Savings and Loan Association, another black financial institution of which E. Gaines Lansey is president. The Federal government provided the rest of the funds for the building, estimated to cost nearly $1 million.

The Baltimore Council for Equal Business Opportunity (CEBO) another black business, was responsible for putting the loan package together along with Ralph Detter.

Samuel T. Daniels, CEBO director, credits Clement McKinnon, CEBO's business counselor, for the excellent coordination of the project.

A black architectural firm, the Leon Bridges Co., designed the new funeral home, which is alive with earth colors — the browns, oranges and reds, in its decor.

Two spacious chapels, with combined seating capacity for 600, eight individual reposing rooms, latest in fixtures, including modern sound system, dining and lounge areas for the firms's 27 employees, and lighted parking area for 50 cars are other features.

There is lower level parking for the firm's behicles and all areas are air conditioned.

Associated with Mr. Bridges on the project was his senior associate, Mahendra Parkh.

The construction was supervised by the Roy Kirby and Sons Inc., general contractors. Coordinating work for the Kirby firm was Samuel T. Daniels, CEBO director, credits Clement McKinnon, CEBO's business counselor, for the excellent coordintation of the project.

For William C. March moving to the new site on Sunday will be like walking across the street, for the old home and the family residence are just a block and a half away at 928 East North Avenue.

Mr. March grew up in East Baltimore, attended Dunbar Senior High and was graduated from Douglass Evening High School. He received his mortuary education at the American Academy of Mortuary Science in New York.

He served his apprenticeship under the late Charles R. Law, and at the Raynor Saunders Funeral Home. After a stint in the Army, he was licensed, and opened his own establishment in 1957. It was incorporated in 1972, and Mr. March became president.

His wife, Mrs. J. Roberta March, also a licensed funeral director, is secretary of the board. The Marches have two sons and two daughters.

The older son, Erich W. March, is vice president and general manager of the firm. Daughter, Cynthia March Malloy, is the treasurer.

Other March children are Victor, an accounting graduate from Loyola; and Annette, who is a graduate of Notre Dame prep school.

The firm's 27 employees include 8 licensed funeral directors. The annual payroll exceed a wuarter of a million dollars.

FIRST-HAND VIEW of a thrilling 'in' place to vacation was seen last month by these travel agents who report El Salvador in Central America offers many delights. From left, William Garrett, Galaxy Travel Ltd.; Joyce Galloway, PAK-A-BAG Travel Agency Inc. and Stella and Jack Alston, Aristocrat Travel Service Inc. For more details about this new resort place, just two hours out of Miami, see their advertisement in this edition.

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Carter speaks at Naval Academy graduation

ANNAPOLIS — President Carter watched with a smile as the 954 boisterous corps graduates of the U.S. Naval Aacemy Wednesday threw their lhite midshipman's hats into the air in celebration of their graduation and commission as officers.

Under overcast skies, Carter told the class of 1978 its members have laid the foundation for "careers that can be rewarding and challenging as any in the world."

Carter should know, since he graduated from the academy on the banks of the Severn River in Annapolis in 1946. The president graduated 60th in his class and told the 1978 graduates he can remember his own graduation ceremony.

"I was thinking more about leave and marriage than world events," he said. Carter said he had hoped to be an ensign on a submarine, but instead was assigned to the U.S.S. Wyoming, the oldest ship in the Atlantic fleet.

"I don't remember a word that was said at graduation," said Carter.

The members of the 1978 graduating class received their Bachelor diplomas individually, to the applause of the crowd of about 16,000 gathered at the Navy Marine Corps Memorial Stadium.

Carter handed diplomas to the top 100 members of the graduating class. Each midshipman received a handshake from the President and a few words of congratulations.

The last president to award the diplomas at the academy was President Nixon in 1974.

The first midshipman to receive a diploma was Jonathan Will of Virginia Beach, Va., who was the top scholar in the class of 1978. Carter personally congratulated William McAltine, of Boston, Mass., who was lowest of the 954 graduates. McAltine was presented with the traditional anchor for the last midshipman to graduate.

After the 954 midshipmen, wearing their dress white uniforms, received their diplomas, they returned to their seats and doned their white midshipman's hats.

Then simultaneously, they tossed the hats in the air — a tradition at the naval academy since 1912.

They no longer need the midshipman's hats because they now will be commissioned as officers in either the Navy or Marine Corps and will receive officer hats.

After the ceremony, Carter was presented with a wood plaque holding a ship clock and barometer from the class of 1978. Then the President and first lady Rosalynn Carter boarded a helicopter for the trip back to the White House.

Nearly 10 million persons served in the armed forces during the 11 year Vietnam Era which began Aug. 5, 1964. Some 270,000veterans joined the military af: the official end of the Vietnam Era, May 7, 1975.

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Minister of Music
JUANITA HALL DAVIS,
Organist
SUNDAY
JUNE 11, 1978
8:30 A.M.
"PRAISE TO GOD WHO REIGNS ABOVE"
By Handel
"ALL THINGS BRIGHT AND BEAUTIFUL"
Hankey-Cole
11:00 A.M.
"SING A NEW SONG"
By Schutz
"FIGHT THE GOOD FIGHT"
Gardner

ANNUAL YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT DAY
"Serving The Lord In The Days Of Our Youth"
Wayland Baptist Church
3200 Garrison Boulevard
SERVICES
7:45 A.M.—Family Worship Hour
10:45 A.M.—Morning Worship
3:30 P.M.—Children's Day Program
Sarah McDaniels, Chairman
Clinette Buise, Co-Chairman
Dameal Johnson, Pastor
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Mrs. Mary Hopkins, President
Rev. Porter W. Phillips, Pastor
Rev. Arthur J. Payne, Pastor Emeritus

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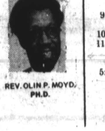
11:00 A.M.—Morning Worship
Sermon By Pastor
3:30 P.M.—Children Day Program
Sgt. Bessie Norris, Balto. City Police Dept. Guest Speaker, and The Milestones Choir Guest Group of Hall Methodist Ch. Glen urnie.



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COMMUNION SUNDAY
CHILDREN'S DAY
8:00 A.M.—Early Morning Worship Sermon by the Pastor Holy Communion
9:15 A.M.—Church School and new members' class
10:30 A.M.—Open Heart Service
11:00 A.M.—Morning Worship Sermon By The Pastor and Holy Communion
5:30 P.M.—BTU and New Members' Class and Annual Tots To Teens Rally

REV. OGLE

We Welcome you
REV. RICHARD H. OGLE IV, Pastor

St. James' Episcopal Church
LAFAYETTE SQUARE
THE CLERGY
The Rev. Donald O. Wilson, Rector
Dr. Robert Ford, Deacon
A. Maurice Murphy, Choir Master-Organist
SUNDAY, JUNE 11, 1978
8:00 A.M.—Holy Communion
9:00 A.M.—Church School in Guild Hall and Undercroft
9:00 A.M.—Holy Eucharist and Sermon (In Church)
11:00 A.M.—Choral Eucharist and Sermon
The Public Is Cordially Invited To Attend

UNION BAPTIST CHURCH
1219 DRUID HILL AVENUE
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21217
"ANNUAL YOUTH DAY"
SUNDAY, JUNE 11, 1978
9:30 A.M.—Sunday School
11:00 A.M.—Morning Worship
Speaker: Dr. Quincy Cooper, Director, Morgan University Christian Center
1:30 P.M.—Fellowship Luncheon and Junior Church Closing
5:00 P.M.
"AN AFTERNOON OF MUSIC"
WANDA T. WIGGINS, SOPRANO
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