EBENEZER BAPTIST EARLY MORNING CHOIR — Mrs. Helen Jones, president; Mrs. Mildred Jackson, vice - president; Miss Early Bunch, Secretary; Mrs. Mary Scott, treasurer; Thomas Berry, chaplain; Mrs. Alma Dixon, business manager and members, Mrs. Clara Dixon, Mrs. Julie Gilliam, Mrs. Betty Wright, Deacon Cleveland Morris, Melvin Paris and James Wright.

EBENEZER BAPTIST CHURCH musicians include Michael Morris, and Myrna Powell, Gwendolyn Neal, pianists and James Alston, organist.

REV. CLARENCE POOLE
Ebenezer Baptist

SENIOR MISSIONARIES of Ebenezer Baptist Church include Mrs. Garnetta Garlic, Mrs. Actee Sturgis, Mrs. Anna Hayworth who is the Ebenezer Mother of the Year, Mrs. Marie Jennings and Mrs. Susie Washington.

MRS. ALICE REID
Senior Missionary
Ebenezer Baptist Church

MRS. ALBERTA LIGHTNER
Senior Missionary
Ebenezer Baptist Church

JUNIOR MISSIONARIES OF EBENEZER BAPTIST are Kim Davis, Sharon Elliott, Bridgett Tatum, Laquata Hayes and Robin Ransom. All photos by Glasco Ryales.

Historic Ebenezer Baptist

Ebenezer Baptist Church at Guilford Ave. and 23rd Street is in its 93rd year with the Rev. Clarence Poole as pastor and head of a prestigious congregation.

The historic church was founded in 1886 by the Rev. John W. Jones, the great grandson of Virginia's famed freedom fighter, Nat Turner.

The Rev. Mr. Jones continued the pioneer efforts of Nat Turner who was hanged after his battle to free slaves before the Civil War.

When Pastor Jones resided in Guilford in East Baltimore in the late 1800's, there were few places black men could worship with their families and friends.

As daring as his famous great grandfather, he founded a church for his fellow black citizens in a neighborhood where they only worked as servants. Soon the church was crowded to overflowing despite white objection.

Today Ebenezer continues the pioneer efforts for the betterment of black citizens, feeding and clothing the needy.

Its membership under Rev. Poole is ever increasing and includes young and old from all walks of life and all areas of the city.

The Sunday School and various organizations are attractive to scores of young people.

There is the Sunbeams with members Robbi Neal Jr., Toni Brooks, Tamara Powell, Kellie Cross, Karen Smith, Cory Smith and Cecile Matthews, to name a few.

The Junior Choir has Robin Robinson, Richard Scruggs, Jimmy Brooks, Kim Holliday, Kim Powell, Karen Cross, Marsa Alford, Kevin Ricks and Constance Gilliam.

Youth Advisors are Calvin Monroe, Dorothy Ransom, Myrna Powell, Constance Ross. The Sunbeam Choir has Stephanie Davis, president; Robin Ransome, vice president; Cheryl Pittman and Kim Grimes, secretaries, Dana Moore, treasurer.

The Willing Workers group dates back to the beginning in the late 1800's and has continued throughout the 83 years.

President is Mrs. Ardelia Lokeman; Maggie Fullard, vice president; Regina Johnson and Myrna Tatum Powell, secretaries; Mae Tatum, treasurer and Virginia Waters, chaplain.

The Intermediate Choir's officers are Tammy Marshall, president; Quinton Baylor, vice; Lakita Kess, secretary; Robin Grimes, financial secretary; Gwen Neal, sergeant at arms and Dorothy Ransome, advisor.

The Sanctuary Choir's officers and members are Margaret Harris, president; June Newman, vice; Connie Ross, Deborah Meadows, secretaries; Mamie Jackson, Grace Ham, treasurers; Blondine Knight, chaplain.

The Pastor's Aid includes Blondine Knight, president; Geraldine Dilworth, vice; Christine Spain, secretary; Mary Pryor, treasurer and Josephine Monroe, chaplain.

The Belle Brown Flower Circle is Mildred Harper, president; Jerolene Morton, secretary; Alma Dixon, treasurer, Laura Mitchell, president; Edward Jordan and Edna Johnson, president.

1872-1979

LEADENHALL
BAPTIST CHURCH
IN OLD SOUTH BALTIMORE

LEADENHALL CHURCH HISTORY

Leadenhall Baptist Church, 1021-23 Leadenhall Street in old South Baltimore marked 107th birthday on May 12, 1979.

The old structure at the section between Hamburg and Cross Streets has the distinction of being on the prestigious U.S. National Register of Historic Places.

The celebration if June 9 at 11 a.m. at the church with all the rights and privileges of the highest U.S. honor being bestowed upon it.

Leadenhall was officially accepted on the National Register of Historic Places on March 16, 1979 and became the third black church in the history of the state of Maryland. Orchard Street church and Benjamin Banneker's Church were the first two on the Register.

Dr. Eddie R. Wilson, Jr. was called to pastor Leadenhall on June 3, 1970. He is a former member of the faculty of Virginia Seminary and College at Lynchburg, Virginia and served during the Administration of the late Dr. M. C. Allen. In addition to his experience as a religious educator, he has pastored for more than a decade. Dr. Wilson is married to the former Bertha A. Goode of Severn, North Carolina.

Leadenhall has been continously occupied by the same black congregation since 1972. It has a membership of over 1,000 persons.

After the Civil War and the Emancipation, many slaves came to Baltimore from Virginia and other southern States and settled in South Baltimore.

In 1870, F. W. King, chairman; Charles A. Keyer, secretary; Bernard Todd, E. Calvin Williams, G. K. Tyler and Christopher West, worked 14 years among the colored Baptists of Baltimore.

Found in South Baltimore, a small Baptist church named Providence Baptist Church, which worshipped in a blacksmith shop. Rev. Lewis Hicks was the pastor.

Seeing the need for a real church building a union meeting of the denomination was held at the Seventh Baptist Church (white) on Sunday, March 31, 1872 and $8,000 was subscribed.

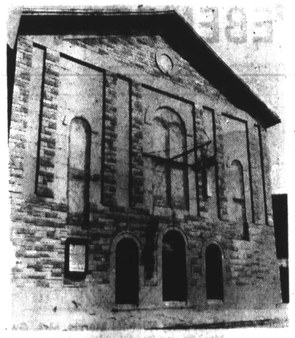
Soon afterwards a large lot was leased on Leadenhall Street and the erection of a large and commodious church was started.

Brother Joseph Thomas, Sr., prepared the plans and superintended the construction of the building without charge. The building was 60 by 90 feet; and has a capacity for 1,200 to 1,500 people, and cost $18,000. The church extension society managed the enterprise.

The church was dedicated in November 1872, and was ready for occupancy May 12, 1873. Eight persons were organized as Leadenhall Street Baptist Church, the Rev. Thomas Henson pastor.

In 1875 the Board of the Maryland Baptist Union Association secured Rev. Ananias Brown, pastor of Shiloh Baptist Church, Newport, R. I., to become pastor. Rev. Brown was born in Richmond, Virginia

He entered Wayland Seminary in Washington, D.C. and was among some of the first of our ministers to get formal training in Theology and Christian Education.



PASTOR, DR. & MRS. EDDIE R. WILSON

He was contemporary with distinguished ministers like Dr. Harvey Johnson, J. C. Allen, William Alexander and Jones Watkins.

He influence and helped Revs. Winn who founded Morning Star Baptist; John Wiggeon who founded First Baptist, Fairfield, R. T. Reed who pastored Calvary Baptist and without doubt many other young men entering the ministry.

For many years he edited and published a monthly paper named the Baptist Messenger, which has considerable circulation.

Rev. Brown, or Elder Brown as he preferred to be called, built up one of the largest and most influential churches in Baltimore.

He was highly respected, especially by the people of South Baltimore, for his friendly and helpful attitude, regardless of denomination.

He served the church as pastor for 46 years. After serving the church and community for 40 yrs, he was honored with a large testimonial of appreciation, at which the Mayor Hon. William J. Malster, and many prominent citizens paid him tribute.

The first deacons were: Joseph Luffman, Peyton Taylor, David Pitts, George Warren, James Williams and Peter Allor. Richmond Freeman was clerk of the church.

Descendants of Joseph Luffman and Richard Freeman are oldest active members of the Leadenhall family dating back to 1873.

These old families have contributed to its history: Green, Speed, Pollard, Jackson, Seaborne, Smith, McCoy, Keys, Hatchett, Roberts, Jones, Lottier, Major, Gordon, Bannister, Turner, Stevens, Skinner, Brown, Wilson, Granger, Ricks, Perry.

It is often mentioned that freedom fighter, Frederick Douglass, active in South Baltimore in the late 1800's frequented Leadenhall, Ebenezer AME and John Wesley United Methodist.

Known families that have contributed to Leadenhall's history are: McKinney, Bevans, Pitts, LeCraft, Jiggetts, Sorrell, Hopkins, Howard, Carroll, Burrons, Wroten, Cherry, Black, Wiggins, Rhodes.

FORMER PASTORS

Rev. Thomas Henson—1873-1874; Rev. J. C. Allen—1874-1875; Rev. Annanias Brown—1875-1919; Rev. Robert Jefferson—1919-1926; Rev. Samuel H. James—1928-1935; Dr. M. C. Allen—1937-1947; Dr. Thomas B. Davis—1948-1961; Dr. H. Hudson Bobbitt—1963-1968; Dr. Eddie R. Wilson, Jr.—1970-

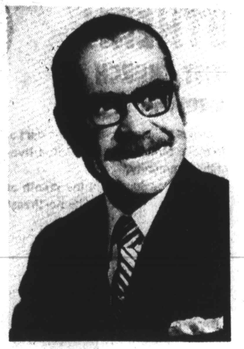
THE OFFICERS

Pastor, Eddie R. Wilson, Jr., D.D.; Associate Ministers; Rev. Thomas Johnson, Rev. Charles Dobson, Rev. Howard Ricks, Dr. Oberlin W. Perry; Board of Deacons; Edward Burnette, chairperson; James E. Cherry, co-chairperson; Board of Trustees; Waverly Wiggins, chairperson emeritus, Harvey E. Gordon, Jr., chairperson; Evelon D. Jordan, co-chairperson; Christian Education Director, Lucille Dixon; Church Clerk; Marie G. Wiggins; Church Treasurer, Rona Black.

SHARON
BAPTIST CHURCH
STRICKER & PRESSTMAN STREETS
DR. JAMES L. MOORE, PASTOR

Three pastors have served this Church in its first 94 years:

Rev. William M. Alexander—1885-1919
Rev. Beal Elliott—1919-1944
Rev. James L. Moore—1946-



OUR PRESENT PASTOR
DR. JAMES L. MOORE

Ninety four years ago (1885), in an abandoned horse stable, on Whatcoat Street, nine persons organized what is now the Sharon Baptist Church. Rev. William M. Alexander, a State Missionary, a graduate of Wayland Seminary which later became Virginia Union, was elected the first pastor. Many advances were made during his thirty-four years, (1885-1919) as pastor, among which are:

1. The first school for Negro children on the west side was organized in Sharon. As a tribute to this work, School No. 112, Calhoun and Laurens Streets is named the William M. Alexander School.
2. He was president of the Northwest Baltimore Colored League, supporter of the Northwest Supply Company which operated a provision store and printing plant.
3. He assisted in the organization of the Peoples Fraternal and Beneficial Society which later became the Southern Life Insurance Company.
4. In order to advertise his Church and community enterprises, Rev. Alexander printed a four page sheet for five years, which he called the Afro - American. The name and printing equipment was purchased in 1892 by John H. Murphy, Sr., with a down payment of $200.00 he borrowed from his wife, Martha E. Murphy.
5. He was editor-manager of the Maryland Voice, a Denominational paper.
6. He was an original member of the Brotherhood of Liberty which opened the way for Negro children to have Negro teachers and for Negro lawyers to practice at the Bar. This was a real achievement in the days of reconstruction.
7. He helped to organize the Lott Carey Foreign Mission Convention and served as secretary - treasurer until his death. The William M. Alexander Mission in Liberia bears his name.

In March 1919, Rev. Alexander was stricken with his last illness. Two weeks before he died he suggested to the officers to name Rev. Beal Elliott as his successor. Rev. Elliott was a graduate of Virginia Union. He received a Masters Degree in Social Science from Yale University.

In October 1919, Sharon honored the request of Rev. Alexander and called Rev. Elliott as the second pastor. Prior to this election, thru the influence of Rev. Alexander in 1916, Rev. Elliott was elected to a position in the Probation Department of the Courts of Baltimore. He served in both positions (pastor of Sharon and Chief Probation Officer) until his death, September 28, 1944.

OUR FIRST PASTOR
REV. WILLIAM M. ALEXANDER

Under his leadership the building was renovated. Children's Communion and central treasury was instituted, a girl's chorus and a boy's chorus were organized. Sharon became known for great music. One of the keynotes of his ministry was a call to "loyalty." This was the test for leadership in every phase of Church life during his pastorate.

School No. 108 (destroyed by fire) Gilmor and Presstman Streets was named for Sharon's second pastor, Rev. Elliott. He spent his life training and developing character in his fellowman so that they could merit the approval of God and men everywhere.

On March 25, 1946, after an interregnum of approximately eighteen months, Sharon elected its third pastor, Dr. James L. Moore. He holds four earned Degrees, Bachelor of Arts, Bishop College, Bachelors and Masters Degrees in Theology from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, a Masters Degree from University of Pittsburgh and an honorary Degree from Western Seminary.

Dr. Moore has held many prominent positions both locally and nationally and is listed in Who's Who Among Black Americans.

He was appointed by Mayor J. Harold Grady as a member of the Baltimore Commission on Human Relations in 1960.

He was appointed to the Public Affairs Commission, headquarters in Washington by Dr. J. H. Jackson, President of the National Baptist Convention, Inc. This Commission represents all Baptist Conventions in America, Black and Whites in public affairs. He was also appointed as the Indorsing Agent and Director of Chaplains for the Armed Services, representing the National Baptist Convention, U.S.A. Inc.

Dr. Moore served as the Executive Director of the Baptist Center and is visiting professor Virginia Seminary and Virginia College. He served on the clergy staff of Johns Hopkins Hospital, Trustee Board Baptist Center and Aged Home and as News Reporter Baptist Ministers Conference. He is a world traveler and has conducted several tours to the Holy Land and other parts of the world.

The Church has been renovated several times from roof to boiler room. The exterior of the Church completely renovated, bricks cleaned and pointed up, woodwork painted and lexan glass installed to protect the stain glass windows. Air conditioning has been installed.

Under Dr. Moore's leadership, the following groups were organized: Birthday Circle, Gospel Chorus, Mass Choir, Elliott Choir, Men's Chorus, Voices of Sharon, Constance Moore Memorial Choir, Church Life Circle, Junior Ushers, Junior and Matrons Missionaries, Youth Fellowship, Joy Circle for neighborhood youth, Yoga Classes, Bowling League and Basketball Team.

The following ministerial Sons have responded to the call of God: Revs. Alfred C. D. Vaughn, Jentry McDonald, Milton Owens, James E. Tucker, Arthur Brown, High R. Page, the late Carlton O. Cooke, and the late Daniel Epps.

In 1966, Dr. Moore, his family and friends started a Memorial Scholarship Fund in memory of his late daughter, Constance H. Moore, who was a senior at Morgan State University at the time of her death of Lupus Erythematosis, June 27, 1965. Each year, on the third Sunday in February a musical is presented at Sharon as a memorial benefit for the Fund. Twelve or more scholarship awards are given each year to deserving college and university students. Each year, Morgan State University receives an award to be given to a student selected by the university. A trust fund has been established, by the Executive Director Dr. Moore, to assure its continuity.

Dr. Moore was one of the original founders of the Baltimore Opportunities Industrialization Center (O.I.C.) and served as Chairman of the Board. This Center prepares the unemployed and underemployed for job placement. Sharon was used for Board meetings and the first facility was a building owned by the Church that was used by O.I.C. rent free. Three of the members of Sharon were persuaded to volunteer their services, a Probation Officer, Mr. Robert Bagley (the first Director), a school teacher, Mrs. Betty Foy, and a Social Security employee, Mrs. Christine Coleman, to move O.I.C. forward. Thru the concerned efforts of this triumvirate an efficient staff and faculty were enlisted and students recruited. This started the Baltimore O.I.C. on its flight. The present facility on Valley Street was negotiated for and the tract signed by Dr. Moore and the present Executive Director, Rev. Harold Dobson was brought into the organization upon his recommendation.

On the night of November 4, 1976 Sharon held its Bicentennial Year Celebration and Banquet at Martin's West with 1,000 guests in attendance.

This marked the 91st Anniversary of the Church and the 30th Anniversary of the pastor. At this affair, members with fifty or more years of service were honored and other members for special service. Mayor William Donald Schaaffer by Proclamation designated November 4, 1976 as "Sharon Baptist Church Day" in Baltimore.

Dr. Moore received the Mayor's Citation for his contribution to the civic welfare of Baltimore City. He also received the Governor's Citation in appreciation for outstanding services to the citizens of the State of Maryland from His Honor Marvin Mandel, Governor.

Sharon is a member of the World Baptist Alliance, National Baptist Convention, Inc., Lott Carey Foreign Missionary Convention and the United Baptist Missionary Convention of Maryland.

The three Pastors of Sharon have sounded the same Gospel note of Salvation for the total man - Spirit, Mind, and Body.

Our prayer is that our heavenly Father will teach us to remember Him in poverty, prosperity, in sickness or health, in ignorance or wisdom, that our eyes will never be closed in unbelief, but opened by faith in Jesus Christ, who began a good work in us and will continue it to the glory and honor of His loving purposes and Holy name.

OUR SECOND PASTOR
REV. BEAL ELLIOTT

JUN