Macedonia Baptist: 105 glorious years

The Rev. Willard L. Clayton says he feels honored to be serving as pastor of Macedonia Baptist, a church that will be 105 years old on September 24.

Rev. Clayton has been pastor of Macedonia, Fremont and Lafayette Avenues, for 33 years and he will be honored at an appreciation banquet on Wednesday, June 27 at Martin's West.

Dr. Frederick G. Simpson, pastor of Tabernacle Baptist Church, Detroit, Michigan will be the speaker. Prior to becoming pastor of Madeonia Baptist, Rev. Sampson served as pastor of Union Baptist in Massachusetts for 20 years.

Macedonia Baptist began in an old stable lot in the 200 block Vincent Street. The Rev. William Charles Lawson, one of the founders served as the first pastor of the church.

What is now Sharon Baptist Church, Stricker and Preestman Streets was founded in 1885 through the efforts of Rev. Lawson and members of Macedonia.

The Rev. August B. Callis was the second pastor of Macedonia and was elected on May 20, 1894.

Another early pastor at Macedonia was the Rev. Daniel Glasco Mack who organized the first scout troop in Madedonia and served as its scout master.

As the membership continued to increase, a larger building was needed and Rev. Mack led his congregation from their old church on Saratoga Street to Lafayette and Fremont Avenue.

He was the pastor of Macedonia for 40 years and died on October 9, 1943. The Rev. H. L. Penn served as acting pastor from November 1943 to April 1945.

Installation services for Rev. Clayton were held Oct. 20, 1946 and the church mortgage was burned Oct. 26, 1946. From October 1947, many major improvements were made to the building. Macedonia has continued to move forward and plans are now being made to air condition the church.

Since Rev. Clayton has served as pastor of a church that has 1,000 members, he has helped to keep the name Macedonia Baptist before the public by participating in the United Baptist Missionary Convention of Maryland, Interdenominational Ministers Conference, Family and Child Welfare and several other organizations.

MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP — Members of the Constance Moore Memorial Scholarship committee who have been sponsoring a concert for 13 years in memory of the late Miss Constance H. Moore, shown surrounding their pastor the Rev. Dr. James L. Moore are Mesdames Audrey Stokes, Willie Gray, Ethel Quarles, Elaine B. Paige, Ruth Pratt, Beatrice Creigler, Bernice Hooker, Esther P. Brooks and Frances Johnson.

Mass to honor composer

Reginald M. Bailey, organist, choir director and composer of sacred music will be honored at a special mass at 3 p.m., Sunday, June 10, at St. Martin's Church, North Capitol and T. Sts., N.W.

St. Martin's Senior Choir, which Bailey directed for twelve years, will present an original motet, "Ave Maria" which he wrote during that time. The choir of SS. Paul and Augustine Church, under the direction of George Dines, will sing the Latin mass in honor of the Holy Redeemer that Bailey composed for the 25th anniversary of Holy Redeemer Parish.

Bailey originally came from Norfolk, Va. He has been choir director and organist at Incarnation Church, Holy Redeemer, St. Benedict the Moor, Fifteenth Street Presbyterian Church, the D.C. Recreation Choir, the Washington Community School of Music and St. Martin's Church.

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The highlight of his career was directing an 80-voice choir at the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception for mass for the Knights of St. John celebrated by Laurian Cardinal Rugambwa. In all, Bailey has composed five masses; a number of anthems and motets; and arranged many sacred songs.

He was honored by the Black Secretariat in February 1979 when he received the arts and humanities award.

Sharon Baptist, a hub of city's black cultural heritage

In May 1945 the Rev. Dr. James Moore came to Baltimore for a visit with his sister and brother-in-law, the late Dr. James Timothy Boddie, former pastor of New Shiloh Baptist Church.

At the time of his visit to Baltimore the United Baptist State Convention of Maryland was in session and the leading pastors of the state along with the president of the convention urged Dr. Moore to accept the position of assistant dean of the Maryland Baptist Center and School of Religion.

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Rev. Moore was scheduled to return to Topeka, Kan. and serve as pastor of Antioch Baptist Church. Declining the call to the church in Kansas, Rev. Moore began his work with the Baptist Center in June 1945 and later resigned from the center at the annual meeting and became pastor of Sharon Baptist Church in 1946.

He is the third pastor of Sharon. The Rev. William M. Alexander served as pastor of Sharon from 1885 to 1919. The Rev. Beal Elliott was the second pastor of Sharon from 1919 to 1944.

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Since serving as pastor of Sharon, Rev. Moore has added gospel chorus, adult council, men's chorus, youth fellowship, and other organizations.

Sharon Baptist was the founding home of two newspapers and an insurance company. Two public schools have been named after its first two pastors.

The first school for black children on the west side of the city was organized at Sharon by the pastor. Now public school No. 112 is named the William M. Alexander School and School No. 108 was named after the church's second pastor, the Rev. Beal Elliott. It was destroyed by fire.

Seeing a need to advertise the few black businesses in the city, the late Rev. Alexander founded a newspaper and was its first editor.

He also served as the managing editor of the Maryland Voice, a religious newspaper for the Baptist denomination.

Today, Sharon Baptist Church is a hub of black cultural heritage and well-known for the quality of its religious music. In the business, government and religious sectors of the community, Sharon is atop the horizon.

Based on a philosophy that, "In whatever you're doing, if you're doing it in the right way, you'll inspire somebody," Rev. Moore has inspired men whom he calls the "Sons of Sharon" to go into the ministry.

Included are the Rev. Dr. Alfred C. D. Vaughn, pastor of Grace Memorial Baptist; the Rev. Jentry McDonald, pastor of Morning Star Baptist in Catonsville; the Rev. Arthur Brown, the Rev. Milton Owens, the Rev. Daniel Epps and the late Rev. Carlton O. Cooke.

Since the death of Rev. Moore's only daughter, the Constance H. Moore Memorial Scholarship Fund has provided more than 50 scholarships to college and university students.

"The death of my daughter made me the father of all children that need help," said Rev. Moore, an image he now has among the young people at Sharon.

While even in its rich history, Sharon has not been all things to all people, it has indeed been enough things to enough people, including more than 1,000 who jammed Martin's West when the church observed its 91st anniversary.

Southern Baptist: from humble beginning to greatness

Southern Baptist is a splendid example of a religious institution which began humbly and overcame many obstacles in its early years. It has become one of the strongest churches in Baltimore.

Now located at 1781 N. Chester Street, Southern began in April 1931 in the 1300 block of Ashland Ave., at the home of Deacon Davis.

This mission was conducted by the late Rev. James R. Coel. The first service was held on Easter Sunday in that same month in a church that had been rented on the northeast corner of Spring and Mulliken Sts.

Due to the large congregation and the vast increase of members, the building became inadequate to accommodate the membership. The church then, rented an old theatre building which was located at Bond and Eager Streets.

Because the church's early beginning was during the depression years, only a few members with strong determination to work for the upbuilding of God's kingdom remained dutiful to Pastor Coel and the works he had started.

The late Mrs. Eliza Coel and Mrs. Annie McLilly sponsored various activities to raise money towards the expenses of the church, which greatly helped the church financially and spiritually.

Pastor Coel and officials soon realized that the members were struggling and making many sacrifices in order to meet the expenses of this large building, so they decided to seek smaller quarters. They rented a part of the Moses Kohn warehouse, on Aisquith Street near Orleans Street.

Pastor Coel was a fine leader who served well until his health became impaired. He then asked for assistance from one of his fellow brethren in the ministry, the late Rev. James R. Grant. Following a lengthy illness, Pastor Coel toe died June 21, 1937 and later that year, Rev. Grant was elected pastor.

In 1941, Southern was incorporated as a religious corporation pursuant to the laws for the State of Maryland. By 1942, the congregation had outgrown its location at Aisquith Street near Orleans Street. Plans to purchase the church building at 1530 East Preston Street were made.

During that same year, Southern relocated and three years later, the mortgage was burned. The worship services remained meditative and every element had spiritual significance and meaning. Soon Southern became known as the "Friendly Church."

Because of the increase in membership, more deacons and trustees were added to the boards, more auxiliaries and singing groups were organized.

During the pastorate of the late Rev. Grant, the idea of building a new church was conceived. In 1965, the site was purchased and paid for. On October 4, 1965, the Rev. J. R. Grant died.

Rev. Nathaniel Higgs was elected pastor of Southern Baptist Church in 1966 and installed on February 19, 1967. Through his ministry, the church has continued to be a thriving pulsating lighthouse. His effective leadership has produced five preachers, two of whom are pastoring successfully.

In early 1971, Rev. Higgs led the congregation in the construction of the new Southern edifice which opened June 4, 1972. It is one of the most modern churches in the state costing $750,000 and now valued at $1.250 million. On Sunday, June 4, 1977, exactly five years from the date of moving in, the mortgage was burned, thirteen (13) years ahead of schedule.

Among Southern's areas of service initiated or doubled in the past decade are membership, currently approximately 2,200 with an average of 175 people joining the congregation each year; early morning worship services, 31 auxiliaries; a city-wide bus ministry to the elderly and the handicapped; 500 men, women, and children singers and 250 ushers serving.

Harlem Park Baptist

5 years old, still growing

Harlem Park Community Baptist Church, 614 - 18 Gilmor St., is a church that continues to grow.

The Rev. Raymond Kelly Jr., founder and pastor of the church says, "The function of our church will be to reach out to all aspects of the community and to bring them into the union and understanding of God, themselves and their neighbors."

The five year old church was organized on March 20, 1974 when Rev. Kelly called a group of citizens together at his home to organize the church. He had first shared his plans with Mrs. Eleanor Barrett and the Rev. William W. Payne, of City Temple Church. of Baltimore.

Prior to moving to 614 - 18 Gilmor St., members had services at the home of their pastor for nearly a year. Rev. Kelly said "The church was then named People's Community Baptist Church and when we moved into the Harlem Park area we changed the name to Harlem Park Community - Baptist Church so we could relate to citizens in the area."

The church has grown from 11 members to 340 members and "continues to grow," says Rev. Kelly. Some of the outreach activities include programs for senior citizens, providing shoes and clothing for needy youth and offering the opportunity for the youth in the community and church to have a religious experience at a weekend camp.

He has served as assistant minister of Douglass Memorial Community Church. He is also a member of the Baptist Ministers Conference; Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance and president of the Harlem Park Community Council.

THE REV. RAYMOND KELLY, pastor of Harlem Park Community Baptist Church is also a teacher in the public schools and director of several choirs.

Macedonia BAPTIST CHURCH

Fremont and Lafayette Aves.

One of the oldest churches in the City is proud to be a part of this wonderful Salute to the Black Church.

Two major events will be held this June.

Woman's Day will be observed on Sunday, June 5, 1979

The 11:00 A.M. guest speaker will be Rev. Agnes Alston and Ms Ophra Winfrey, Newsperson for Channel 13, WJZ will headline the 3:00 P.M. service.

Mrs. Earline Ford is chairwoman and Mrs. Willie Mae Perry is co-chairperson.

Rev. Clayton will be honored at an Appreciation Banquet on Wednesday, June 27, 1979 at Martin's West. Dr. Frederick G. Sampson, Pastor of Tabernacle Baptist Church, Detroit, Michigan is the keynote speaker.

The chairpersons are Mrs. Ernestine Bennett, Mrs. Velvo Ingram and Mr. Herman Handy. This affair is open to the public at $15.00 per person.

Rev. W. L. Clayton

HARLEM PARK COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH

612-18 NORTH GILMOR ST.

BALTIMORE, MD. 21217

HISTORY OF THE CHURCH

(By: MRS. BERNITA K. CONAWAY, Secretary

March 20, 1974, was the initial meeting of a group called together by Rev. Kelly, Jr., at his home, for the purpose of organizing and founding a church.

The persons present were told of Rev. Kelly's spiritual guidance to organize a church. Having shared this experience first with Mrs. Eleanor Barrett and the Rev. William W. Payne of City Temple Baptist Church of Baltimore, then individually with the adults present, all gave impetus to this idea.

Rev. Kelly read a list of names of persons with whom he had talked concerning the organization of a church. These persons consented to join and actively support the church. Another list contained names of persons who could not join because of their commitments to their own church, but would give active support to our endeavor.

The second meeting was held at Rev. Kelly's home on March 27, 1974. He stated that he had talked with other ministers and friends about our mission. These persons felt that there is great merit in our work and promised to support us. Several monetary contributions from friends were given.

The People's Community Baptist Church was the name Rev. Kelly was inspired to call our fellowship. The function of our church will be to reach out to all aspects of the community and to bring them into union and understanding of God, themselves and their neighbors.

We were blessed with new members interested in helping us to build God's church.

Continually searching for a permanent church home, it was learned that the Harlem Theatre was available. Immediately we became interested because of its history, not while a threatre, but as a church, The Second Church on Gilmor Street dedicated May 26, 1929.

The pastor, Rev. Raymond Kelly, Jr., and members of the Mission looked at the building on May 5, 1974. After discussion, it was unanimously agreed upon that this was the perfect building and good location for our endeavor. Our friends responded financially and spiritually.

Nine months of negotiations were finalized with settlement on June 17, 1975. This culminated that phase of vigorous endeavor for the People's Community Mission, which was the need to find a permanent church home.

On June 18, 1975, the Mission rejuvenated physically, enthusiastic mentally and devout in spirit, painstakingly began the monumental task of refurbishing the edifice to its original grandeur as God's church for our worship services.

Rev. Kelly explained that in starting a Baptist Church we must become organized as a mission.

The ultimate goal of the mission was to become incorporated and become a church. Rev. Kelly told us how to go about appointing our officers as a mission. A book explaining the duties of the office was given each officer for his edification. Temporary officers were appointed.

Each person was charged with the responsibility of enlarging our fellowship and to inquire about a meeting place or a possible building site.

In the months that followed, the mission continued to meet at the home of Rev. and Mrs. Raymond Kelly, Jr. It was here that everyone began to fully understand when two or three are gathered in his name you have a church and if you take one step he will take two.

When made aware of the acquisition of the building for a church, many of the neighbors expressed profound joy and joined in to help us in this massive undertaking.

By July 4, 1975, one could hardly imagine that so much could be accomplished with in a month. What a delight to realize that sixty-six (66) years later a church again could come alive in this building. On that glorious Sunday morning, approximately one hundred fifty (150) members and friends from points near and as far as Detroit, Michigan, jubilantly marched into our church.

October 17, 1975, our church, growing in harmony and love, had its formal recognition service as the Harlem Park Community Baptist Church/ it was yet apart by the Baptist Ministers Conference of Baltimore and vicinity.

—COMING EVENTS—

JUNE 9TH Women's Day Prayer Breakfast 8:30 A.M.

JUNE 10TH Women's Day—11:00 Service Rev. Miss Alfreda Wiggins - Speaker.
3:00 P.M.—Rev. Lydia Starks and the choir and congregation of Fellowship Baptist Temple will worship with us.

JUNE 17TH Our choir in concert at the Pennsylvania AME Church, 6:00 P.M. Rev. Marshall Strickland, Pastor.

JUNE 24TH The Women's Chours of the First Apostolic Church will be presented in concert 3:30 p.m. Bishop Showell, pastor.

JUNE 29TH Mount Pleasant Baptist Church, Choir and Cong., Rev. Clifford Johnson will worship with us.

Lake Clifton Senior High School

Year Book

Nation's largest high school in structure and program capability

2,992 students study in a 45-acre complex

THE TOP 10 *GRADUATING SENIORS are Maurice Douglas Walker, 95.36; Charlotte Marie Morgan, 94.67; Barnard Carl Jorn, 91.51; Cynthia Veronica McElveen, 90.94; Ramon Farrow Jr. 89.5; Stephanie Lynne Jackson, 89.22; Yvette Massie Heard, 89.04; Antoinio William Beasley, 88.80; Marjorie V. Willie, 88.375; Terry Jean Spidell, 88.21. *Deborah Ann Argo has a 93.793 average which represents her senior year only.

PRINCIPAL JOHN E. MOHAMED, one of the most able educators in the nation, has headed the strong faculty at Lake Clifton since 1977

The last class of the 70's has 10 honor graduates

By Elizabeth M. Oliver
City Editor

Photos by
Glasco Ryales

Lake Clifton Senior High School is listed as the largest in the United States from the standpoint of accomodations and curriculum. There is a total of 2,992 students; 1,668 boys and 1,324 girls who study in a complex of buildings located on a 45-acre campus.

The five modern structures are located on grassy lawns with connecting walkways at 2801 St. Lo. Drive, a beautiful site adjacent to Clifton Park.

The completely air-conditioned facility was constructed at a cost of $15 million.

The principal, John E. Mohamed, a leading educator, has a personality as magical and entrancing as the unusual school which the architect created in a futuristic design of light and beauty.

The extensive use of murals, paintings and sculpture enhances the hallways and the park-like areas between the buildings to reveal the most unusual educational institution in the nation.

Lake Clifton can accomodate 3,400 students who study under the idea that the school can be "a constructive force for change" to prepare the youngsters for the world of the future.

Principal Mohamed feels that the end goal is a search for knowledge that will lead to a way of life that is good for each and every child.

He notes that responsibility is emphasized and there is cooperation between students, parents, teachers and the administration to achieve committment to learning.

Each student has the advantage of a curriculum which gives college preparatory, general education, job preparatory, vocational - technical and distributive education.

INSIDE
2,992 names
every student