THE LIVING CHURCH

United House of Prayer baptizes 400

ALL SMILES — This little girl, bearing a bright smile is baptized by several of the elders of the United House of Prayer during services Aug. 19. She was one of 400 people baptized.

AFRO Photos by Mark Gail

By P. Elaine Badham

They all came with one thought in mind . . . they were 400 strong and crowded the small walkway around the pool.

Dressed in white, they stood patiently for more than an hour in the sun, waiting for the baptism services to begin. They were ready to give of themselves, to give themselves to God.

Once the services were underway, the 400 were baptized by the elders of the United House of Prayer at the 53rd Holy Convocation, Aug. 19.

Bishop McCollough presides at 53rd annual convocation

Presiding over the services was Bishop W. McCollough of Washington, D.C. who heads the United House of Prayer for All People church organization.

Before Bishop McCollough spoke to the large audience which included many children, the Rev. H. Dillard, pastor in Charlotte, N.C. preached.

Following his preaching, Bishop McCollough led the audience in silent prayer. He stated, "You've heard enough preaching this afternoon to save everybody in Baltimore."

Then he said, pointing to the water in the baptism pool, "This is no longer Baltimore City water. This is not the same water that came from the reservoir.

"This water has been transformed. Like the water that flowed 72 miles from Jordan down to Galilee."

Bishop McCollough then invited those who jammed the grounds outside the United House of Prayer in the 600 block West Preston St. to take some of the water from the pool.

Bottles, jars, water coolers, jugs and cups were immediately passed to the elders of the church who filled the containers with the water.

"Take this water home," said the bishop, "and use it on your loved ones or friends who are troubled or diseased and could not be here today."

After the water had been taken from the large pool, the baptism services began. A long line proceeded around the pool and one by one each candidate was immersed in the water.

A steady stream of candidates continued for nearly two hours.

The pool enclosed by a 5 foot - high fence was built three years ago to accommodate the increasing number of candidates for baptism. The first year the pool was opened, nearly 1,500 persons were baptized.

Prior to that time, hoses were used for the baptism services.

Most of those seeking baptism come from the neighborhood surrounding the church, according to Elder C. J. Kellogg.

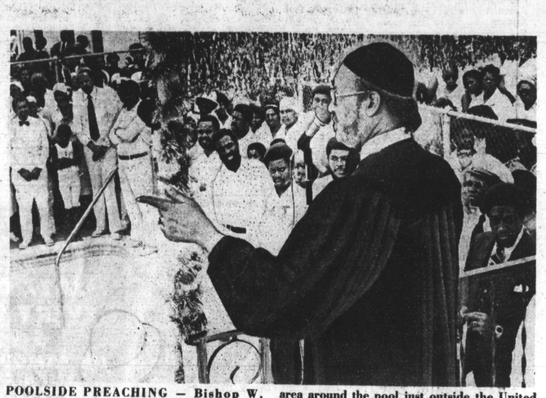
Following the baptism services, a gospel extravaganza was held and music groups from all over the country participated.

Singing and preaching concluded the program later that evening.

Each year the convocation begins the third week in July and runs through October.

Baptisms are held each week in a different city and are usually attended by Bishop McCollough.

HANDS RAISED IN PRAYER — Upon the arrival of Bishop W. McCollough at the services, the people who had gathered to watch the baptism as well as those being baptized raised their hands and joined in silent prayer.



POOLSIDE PREACHING — Bishop W. McCollough before conducting the baptism services, preached to the crowd that jammed the area around the pool just outside the United House of Prayer Church at 600 W. Preston St.

TAKE HOME HOLY WATER — Water coolers, jugs, jars and bottles were among those used by outer persons to get some of the water from the baptism pool to take home.

Metro Church Briefs

The seventh annual session of the North East Conference began August 23 at St. Joseph Freewill Baptist Church, 1601 Rutland Ave. and will continue through Sunday, August 26.

Bishop Austin Barnes is serving as moderator for the services which begin each day at 11 a.m. The motto is "The Lord is on My Side.

Officers include Elder R. Farrow, secretary; Deacon James Armstrong, chairman of the Deacons for the conference; and Q. Davis, vice bishop.

On Saturday, August 25, a special program entitled "Celebrate Living" is being sponsored by Brother Thomas Jones at Grace AME Church, 67½ Winters Lane at 7 p.m.

The invitation is extended to all of the church members and friends in the Baltimore community. All those having birthdays in August will be honored.

The City - wide Unity Committee invites you to their annual Meet the Candidates Night at the Ray of Hope Baptist Church, Harford Road and Parkside Drive.

The meeting is scheduled Wednesday, August 29, at 8 p.m. Dr. Charles M. Franklin is pastor.

The 19th Anniversary and Convention of the National United Women Ministers Conference will convene Friday, August 31 and Saturday, September 1.

All day services will be held at the Christian Unity Temple's Fellowship Hall, 3900 Groveland Ave. beginning each day at 8 a.m.

The agenda for the convention will consist of spiritual services with workshops. Convention theme is "Toward Unity and Excellency in the Ministry."

Registration fee for the conference is $10 per person which includes meals.

The Angelic Choir of Good Shepherd Baptist Church will sponsor a pre - anniversary program Sunday, September 2 at 3:30 p.m. Several choirs will be featured on the program which will be held at the church, 3459 Park Heights Ave.

On Sunday, September 9 at 8 a.m. the church will hold a choir reunion breakfast. A dinner is planned at 1:30 p.m. and at 3:30 p.m. Bishop Nadmi Durant will speak.

On Saturday, September 8 from noon to 6 p.m. there will be a festival in the 1200 block Etting Street in observance of the International Year of the Child.

Children, ages up to 12 years, will enjoy hotdogs, hamburgers, sodas, clowns, music contest, prizes and other events.

This activity is being sponsored by the Supportive Community United Methodist Women of Sharp Street Memorial United Methodist Church.

All parishioners and past parishioners of St. Peter Claver Catholic Church are invited to the first annual homecoming, the 95th anniversary as a parish, September 8 and 9.

The schedule of events includes: Memorial Mass for all deceased members, Saturday, September 8 at 4 p.m. Rev. William P. McKenna, S.S.J. homilist. A reception will follow in the parish hall. The church is located 1546 N. Fremont Ave.

Solemn homecoming mass will be celebrated by several priests and deacons, Sunday, September 9 at 12:30 p.m.

From 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. open house will be observed and the convent, school and rectory can be visited at that time.

A cocktail hour will be held from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. in the parish hall and the homecoming banquet will follow at 4 p.m.

Master of ceremonies will be Rev. Maurice Blackwell. Special guest and speaker for the occasion is Rev. Joseph Francis, S.V.D., D.D. Auxilary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Newark, N.J.

Jones Tabernacle Baptist Church, 2100 W. Baltimore St, will present the Bethel Players of Bethel AME Church in a three - act play, "An Old Fashioned Mother."

The play will be staged Friday, September 14, at 8 p.m. Admission is $3.

A Consecration Convocation is being sponsored by the Morgan Christian Center on Wednesday, September 19, at 7:30 p.m.

Rev. John R. Bryant, pastor of Bethel AME Church will be the speaker. Music will be rendered by the Imani Messengers of the church.

The Naylor Hughes Fellowship of Sharp Street Memorial United Methodist Church is sponsoring a special matinee performance of Bertolt Brecht's "Mother Courage and Her Children" at Center Stage, Saturday, October 13 at 2 p.m.

Starring in the role of Mother Courage is Baltimore - born, Tony and award - winning actress Trazana Beverly. Ms. Beverly was a regular member of Sharp Street Church when she lived in Baltimore.

In addition, Baltimore's own Avon Long who appeared in the Broadway hit "Bubbling Brown Sugar" has a featured role in the play.

For more information, call the church at 523 - 1193.

PRIESTS NOW NUMBER 300

Black Catholics held annual conference in Milwaukee

Capuchin Brother Booker Ashe, a household word to many of the poor in Milwaukee's inner city, was elected president of the 600-member National Black Catholic Clergy Caucus at their annual conference held in Milwaukee.

He succeeds Bishop James Lyke, OFM, newly consecrated auxiliary bishop of Cleveland.

Bishop Lyke told the caucus members that they had been a mainstay of his vocation and cited the fact that in the eleven years since the caucus was founded, the number of black priests in the United States has increased from 169 to 300.

Two representatives from Washington, D.C. were elected to the national board of directors. They are Father William Norvel, SSJ, pastor of St. Benedict the Moor Parish; and Brother Joseph Hager, FSM, from the Conference of Major Superiors of Men.

Others chosen for the board are:

Father Fernand Cheri Jr., pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, New Orleans; Father Terry Steib, SVD, provincial of the Southern Province of the Divine Word Missioners; Father August Thompson, pastor of Our Lady of Prompt Succor Parish, Natchitoches, La.; Father Maurice Blackwell, pastor of St. Bernardine Parish, Baltimore, Md.; and Father Don Clark, pastor of Precious Blood Church, Detroit.

The caucus elected Father Thaddeus Posey, OFM Capuchin, from the Province of St. Conrad, Kansas City, Mo. as their vice president.

The conference heard from Dr. Herbert Douglas, chairman of the Afro - American Studies Department at New York State University who criticized Catholic dioceses for closing parochial schools in the cities of this country instead of "willingly building new communities."

He told the group that closed schools offer blacks fewer opportunities than previously existed.

He challenged the conference not to allow today's black youth to become a lost generation because "the stakes are too high to us and the nation as a whole.

NEW BOARD MEMBER of the National Black Clergy Caucus is Father William L. Norvel, pastor of St. Benedict the Moor Church.

He suggested that blacks help themselves by forming coalitions with other minority groups — Hispanics, Native Americans and the aged for example; reinforcing their demands for quality education; exploring agricultural opportunities in the U.S. and other countries; and developing interest in nutrition and environmental concerns.

"We need an overwhelming effort in education," he told the bishops, priests, brothers and seminarians. "The numbers of blacks in college and high school are impressive, but we must insist on quality and excellence."

Dr. Douglas urged the members of the National Black Catholic Clergy Caucus not to ignore their role to help blacks.

He said that the black family despite all the destructiveness imposed on it by society has done a remarkable job of survival but added that too many blacks continue to wallow in a sea of degradation.

A panel of black Catholic parents related to the conference their experiences in church and their reaction to church.

They cited instances of specific priests, brothers or sisters being church, being Christ present to them but for the greater part felt that the church did not identify with who and where they were.

They talked about priests being assigned to their parishes considering their assignment as mission and as a stepping stone to bigger and better things like a parish in suburbia.

Members of the conference participated in a closed workshop on celibacy and sexuality in black ministerial life conducted by Dr. Edwin Nichols, a psycho therapist from the National Institute of Health in Washington, D.C.

Dr. Nichols was joined by Dr. Earl Braxton, a black psychologist. Participants were impressed to the point of proposing the possibility of repeating this workshop on a regional basis so that every member of the caucus would have exposure to it.

The conference set up a committee that will seek involvement with Hispanic, native American and Asian Catholics to encourage and support the efforts of these groups in seeking positions of leadership in the church and the elevations of their members to the episcopacy.

They passed a resolution calling on the church to become aware of the racism in Azania (South Africa), Zimbabwe (Rhodesia), and Namibia (South West Africa) and their Christian responsibility to work towards overcoming it.

The conference also passed a resolution calling for a statement on the Catholic Church and the black family to be presented to the World Synod of Bishops and set up a committee to prepare the working draft of this paper.

In a separate session held by the National Black Catholic Seminarians Association, Brother Arthur Anderson, OFM, a member of the Sacred Heart Franciscan Province, was elected to serve as their president for the next two years.

The seminarians presented special awards of appreciation to Father George Clements, pastor of Holy Angels Parish, Chicago, and to Brother Booker Ashe, OFM Capuchin, for their spiritual and material support of the seminarians and for their leadership and example.

The entire caucus honored Father Rollins Lambert at the annual banquet and presented him with the Brother Joseph Davis Award for outstanding service to the church in the black community.

Father Lambert was the first black priest in Chicago, the first black pastor in Chicago and the first president of the Black Catholic Clergy Caucus when it was formed in 1968.

He is currently adviser for African affairs for the Committee on Social Development and World Peace of the United States Catholic Conference.

The group voted to hold their 1980 conference in Chicago in conjunction with the Knights and Ladies of St. Peter Claver, the National Black Catholic Sisters Conference, and the National Black Catholic Lay Caucus.

This will be the larget meeting of black Catholics in the history of the church in the United States.

CORRECTION

SWEET POTATO PIE — Mrs. Hattie Powell, an active member of the Church of St. Katherine of Alexandria, is shown with a slice of pie she purchased at the annual sidewalk sale. The all-day affair was sponsored by the Episcopal Church women.

PSTA wants delay on teacher s' new contract

Moses Holmes, Executive Director of the Public School Teachers Association, said the Baltimore Teachers Union should delay Tuesday's scheduled contract ratification vote until the start of the school year Sept. 6, provide teachers with written copies of the contract and allow all teachers to vote.

All city teachers should be allowed to vote on a tentative contract, not just members of the Baltimore Teachers Union, he said Thursday.

The BTU and the PSTA were deprivileged for their role in the 1974 teachers strike. Teachers were without collective bargaining representation from 1976 until last fall, when the Teachers Union defeated the PSTA in a union representation election.

The Teachers Union agreed on a tentative contract Wednesday with city school officials. The contract provides a 9.5 percent salary increase and other undisclosed benefits.

Union President John Bethea said the new contract would set maximum class sizes, which was 38 students per seconday school classroom last year, and possibly change the department teachers evaluation system.

Current teacher salaries range from $10,232 for a starting teacher with a bachelors degree to $20,204 for a 25-year veteran with a masters degree and 30 hours of postgraduate education.

Bethea said only members of the BTU will be allowed to vote on the contract.

Holmes said a vote should be delayed to give teachers a chance to look at the contract.

"We feel that if you bargain for 10 or 11 months, we don't see any need to hurry to ratify it," he said. "When you have bargained an agreement in the interest of teachers, you should have no problem with scrutiny."

He said the last negotiated contract in 1976 was not ratified until teachers had been provided full texts of the terms of the contract and the same procedure should be followed this time.

HU fetes conference on African diaspora

The Howard University history department will host a conference on "The African Diaspora from a Changing Global Perspective" Aug. 26-30 at the A. J. Blackburn Center.

The conference is being financed by grants from the International Communication Agency and the Ford Foundation and will feature scholars and writers from the U.S., Africa, the Caribbean and Europe.

The threefold purpose of the conference is to "define the historical relationship between Africa and the diaspora; to assess thesstatus of teaching and research in the field, and to explore the possibility of strengthening the links between scholars in the field."

More families eligible for fuel bill $ aid

The number of low-income families eligible for federal assistance in paying their fuel bills should double this winter because of the increasing cost of home heating oil, according to federal officials.

Theordore Brown, Deputy Director of the State Office of Community Relations, Wednesday predicted about 15,000 families could receive up to $250 to help defray the cost of their heating oil bills, which are expected to double.

He said about 8,000 people received assistance last winter to pay overdue utility and fuel bills.

This will probably be the worst of one so far, because fuel costs have gone up since last winter almost 50 percent," Brown said.

Home heating oil costs $77 per hundred gallons and many energy officials expect it to reach $100 by midwinter.

The federal government has not yet completed plans for winter assistance programs. And Brown pointed out that last years programs did not include provisions to pay for new fuel. They only helped pay unpaid bills.

Despite Browns prediction that the number of persons eligible for federal money distributed by his agency will probably double next winter, one city official is worried about those people who won't have the cash on hand to pay for the fuel deliveries.

"My concern this year is especially with the poor who basically do not have credit," said Edward Dupree, Energy Coordinator for Baltimore's Urban Services Agency.

"They receive oil on a cash on delivery basis," he said. "I'm concerned they won't get delivery of heating oil."

Dupree also said he expects many low-income families will not have enough money to heat their homes. He cited the example of one elderly woman who told him she will have to pay $135 a month to buy heating oil this winter out of her $213 monthly social security check.

We welcome you to our
19th Anniversary
And Convention
of the
National United Women
Ministers Conference, Inc.
Will convene
Friday, August 31
and Saturday Sept. 1, 1979
All Day Services Beginning at 8 A.M. at
THE CHRISTIAN UNITY
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Fellowship Hall, 3900 Groveland Ave.
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The corner of Garrison Blvd.
The convention Agenda will consist of highly spiritual services with workshops informative and vital to both male and female ambassadors of Christ. Local and out of town participants.
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Includes meals
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Conducted By Rev. Dexter Wise III of Providence, Rhode Island.
Everyone Invited
REV. DR. THEODORE C. JACKSON, Pastor

St. James
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8:00 A.M. Holy Communion
9:00 A.M. Church School
10:30 A.M. Choral Eucharist Sermon
The Rev. Donald O. Wilson, Rector
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The Public Is
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SUNDAY, August 26, 1979
DEACON & DEACONESS BOARD DAY
8:00 A.M.—Early Morning Worship
Sermon By
Rev. James Porter
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
Rev. James Porter
REV. RICHARD H. OGLE IV
All Are Welcome
REV. RICHARD H. OGLE IV, Pastor

PENNSYLVANIA AVE. AME ZION CHURCH
"The Church of the Burning Heart"
Corner Pennsylvania Ave.
and Dolphin St.
SUNDAY, AUGUST 26, 1979
11:00 A.M.—Worship
Sermon By Rev. Robert H. Richmond
Theme: "Home sick"
Music By: The Men and Women Chours
A Friendly Welcome To All
DR. MARSHALL D. SHEPHERD, Pastor

SHARP ST. MEMORIAL
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
SUNDAY, AUGUST 26, 1979
9:30 A.M.—Church School
10:00 A.M.—Morning Worship.
ALL ARE WELCOME
Rev. John W. Coleman, Minister
Rev. Arthur White, Assistant Minister

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MARION CURTIS BASCOM,
D.D. Minister
James S. Hammond
Minister of Music

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AUGUST 26, 1979
Eight and Eleven
O'Clock

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MARION C. BASCOM
Preaching

Hallelujah Amen
Judas Maccabaeus
George F. Handel
With A Voice of Singing
Martin Shaw
Let the Heav'n Light
Shine on Me
Hall Johnson, arr.
Soon—Ah Will Be Done
William Dawson

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