Providence An Asset To Upton-Lena Boone

Lena J. Boone

By Lena J. Boone
(Executive Director,
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The new Providence Church is another of today's needs for the Upton Community.

Today, Pennsylvania Ave. has the personality, grace and dignity that were, and have been, this community's assets for many, many years.

The time when Pennsylvania Ave. was known as the entertainment street of the black community is over. The remembrances of that bygone era of glitter and music will remain with many, and will only henceforth, be a memory that has been laid to rest.

Pennsylvania Ave. has arisen to a new day. The new Providence Baptist Church has helped make this new day.

We, of the Upton Community, say congratulations to Providence Baptist Church.

We salute you for helping make Upton a community that serves the needs of its total people.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: — The Upton Urban Renewal Area in northwest Baltimore is bounded on the north by Gold St., south by Biddle St., east by McCulloh St., and west by Fremont Ave.)

WELCOME — Is Thomas Craig, longtime Pennsylvania Ave. area businessman, extends welcome to Rev. Marcus G. Wood, Providence Baptist pastor. Mr. Craig operates shoe repair shop in block where new church is built.

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Mrs. Wood, Pastor's wife, has own identity

Pastor's wives often get swallowed up or hidden behind the person of her husband. And for many women who are married to ministers, their roles are defined by the congregations which their husbands serve.

In her book, **The Black Minister's Wife**, Dr. Weptanomah W. Carter says that the minister's wife, "in expressing her individual and God - given personality, does not live in opposition to her husband, but rather compliments him in his mission and his work." Dr. Carter is the wife of the Rev. Dr. Harold A. Carter, pastor, New Shiloh Baptist Church.

Mrs. Bessie Pendleton Wood is a minister's wife who has established her own identity in the church and works comfortably within her endeavors. Her husband is the shepherd over the Providence Baptist Church.

A quiet woman with a humble spirit, Mrs. Wood says she's "very excited" about the new solar - heated church, located at Pennsylvania and Lafayette Avenue. In her own way, Mrs. Wood labored long and hard to see the once "dream church" become a reality.

Born one of the five daughters of Hazle and Fannie Pendleton in Charles Towne, W. Va., Mrs. Wood attended the public schools there and was graduated from Page Jackson High School and the King Daughter School of Nursing. While in West Virginia, she worked as a nurse at the Newton D. Baker Army Hospital.

Church life has never been separate from Mrs. Wood's daily life. She was reared in the church. Her father was chairman of the deacon board, and her mother a deaconess.

She is grounded in the Christian faith. "I was converted when I was 18," she recalls.

A minister's wife must be versatile. Mrs. Wood is no exception.

"What do you do at Providence?" asked the AFRO.

"I do everything," was her response. "I work with every department in the church and I like them all. I especially miss the clubs when they close in the summer. I really love them all."

Weekly, for the past ten years, Mrs. Wood and a little band of women visit Montebello Hospital where they minister to several of the black female patients. They volunteer as hairdressers and "beautify" the women. The Rev. Mr. Wood serves on the clergical staff there and conducts worship service thrice yearly.

The Rev. Mr. and Mrs. Wood have been married for some 35 years. They moved to Baltimore in 1952 after accepting the invitation to pastor Providence Baptist. Mrs. Wood worked briefly at Lutheran Hospital in the medical records department.

Together, the couple has travelled to Puerto Rico, Mexico, Guy , South America, Haiti, Barbados, Trinidad and Jamacia.

The couple has two children, Marcus, an administrator at the Office of Employment Management in Washington, D.C., and his wife, Maxine, and daughter, Jeanette, a computer supervisor at C&P Telephone Co., and her husband, Eugene.

There are four grandchildren: Kevin Brown, 16, a student at Randallstown High, and his brother, Darryl, 14, Deerpark Junior High; Monica Wood, 10 and Melissa, 8, both at the Shrine of Sacred Hearts Catholic School

Mrs. Wood's four sisters are: Helen Dorsey of Baltimore; Ethel Blue, Charles Town, W. Va.; Fannie Stanton, Charles Town, and Mary Frye, Shippenburg, Pa.

PASTOR'S WIFE — Mrs. Marcus G. Wood tells of role of minister's wife in accompanying article.

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