47th AFRO Clean Block

KOOL Days in Baltimore

Mrs. Ida Peters, director
Mrs. Vanessa Johnson, co-director
Mrs. Kathy Parrott, assistant

Charm City's dirty underwear

By Kathy Parrrot

On cars of every make and desription, you see bumper stickers that say BALTIMORE IS BESTBALTIMORE'S BEST. Our cit is publicized as CHARM CITY, U.S.A.

However, if you could see what we see as we travel througout the city to look at blocks that are trying to live up to those slogans by working in the AFRO Clean Block Campaign you too would be befuddled.

You would wonder what is so charming about broken curbs and steps, mountains of trash, clogged sewers, or yards so overgrown with weeds that you walk into fences because you can't see them.

You would be hard pressed to find the beauty in looking at or living with gaping structures that were once homes, but are

(Photo by Vanessa Johnson)

1900 Mosher have painted their fronts and planted flowers. They have one sore spot, the yard of 1000 Monroe St where the fence is broken and trash spills in alley.

You would be hard pressed to find the beauty in looking at or living with gaping structures that were once homes, but are now vacant houses.

It would confound you to define 'best' when dope addicts leave syringes in your flower urns, and drunks harass and threaten you when you are out sweeping streets and alleys that your tax dollars are supposed to pay to hav? swept.

Yet, these kinds of abuses are what city residents who are AFRO Clean Blockers have to live with in Baltimore's Charm City. These are the kinds of slights that these people have to endure while the city entertains visitors at the Inner Harbor, Ethnic Festivals and Pier 6.

We wonder where our city's civil servants are when bulk trash needs to be picked up that has been gathered by hard working volunteers. Why can't sewers be unclogged on city streets, or alleys be rid of huge rats, or trash can emptied that sit on city street corners? Why can't the city police enforce No Parking regulations when the street sweeper comes? Why don't the many city agencies who promised to work hand in hand with the AFRO Clean Block answer their phones or respond and make good promises to block captains?

We wonder if the many workers who come to Clean Block meetings every Friday and tell of problems that have existed for years are not a part of Baltimore's Charming Best. We wonder if their hard work and diligence are not the underlying foundation that enables Baltimore to make its boastful claims.

We do not wish to see Baltimore lose any of its charm or grace. We do not wish to see any of the renovation programs come to a halt, for we don't wish to lose any of the jobs that these endeavors create. However, we would like to see some of the charm and beauty spread out into the neighborhoods whose working forces are never exhibited 'when company calls'.

Problems

These are some of the problems submitted by Clean Block Captains and Advisors at a Clean Block meeting:

Sanitation Problems

1500 blk W. Lanvale St.- piled up bags and boxes in the alley.

500 blk Baker St.- street sweepers are littering the street after workers have swept.

2400 blk Lakeview Ave.- trash collectors leave more trash than they take.

1800 blk Regester St. & 1800 blk Rutland Ave.- bulk trash.

2600 blk Aisquith St.- trash containers on street have not been emptied for three weeks.

1900 Druid Hill Ave.- landlord on McCulloh is cleaning out a house and placing trash in the alley.

1400 blk McCullon St.- bulk trash.

1600 blk Edmondson Ave.- clogged sewer

2700 Parkwood Ave.- alley needs cleaning.

2900 blk Parkwood Ave.- bulk trash.

2200 blk Ashaland Ave.- sewer clogged, alley needs cleaning.

1300 blk Etting St.- bulk trash.

500 blk Bloom St.- alley needs cleaning.

1700 blk Franklin St.- bulk trash in alley behind 500 blk Mount St.

1900 blk Fulton Ave.- dirty alley.

1900 blk Milton Ave.- vacant lot needs cleaning.

2500 Garrett Ave.- trash cans not emptied; husband of advisor empties trash cans every week.

Housing Problems

1400 blk Lafayette Ave.- trash in vacant yards.

300 blk E. Federal St.- vacant houses need boarding and xeax?? yards cleaned.

100 W. Vine St.- vacant houses.

5000 blk Beaufort Ave.- vacant houses; trash in yards; poison oak and poison ivy.

1100 blk Whatcoat St.- vacant houses.

Police Problems

2600 Maisbury Ct.- problems with theft; shooting dice on corners; threat to old people.

600 blk Brice St.- drugs.

1600 blk Edmondson Ave.- cars illegally parked when the mechanical sWeeper comes to clean.

1700 blk E. Chase St.- violent and rude young men who play football in the street, causing traffic accidents and making outrageous noises.

1900 blk McCulloh St.- landlord is emptying truckloads of trash in the alley. ?

The Law and your pets

Here is a general outline of what is expected of animal owners, breeders, and others:

1. Dogs over 4 months of age must have a valid license. For information call 396 - 3994.
2. All dogs must be kept under restraint, and failure to do so can result in a fine to the owner.
3. Dogs and cats over 4 months of age must have a valid rabies vaccination.
4. Dogs must wear identification on their collars when outdoors.
5. Dogs outdoors must be leashed to prevent dog bites, damage to property, spread of disease to people and other animals, fights with other animals, injury and death by cars, turning over garbage cans, creating unsanitary conditions, and indiscriminate breeding.
6. Animal bites must be reported to the local health department andor the police.
7. Animals involved in a biting incident must be kept under surveillance in isolation for 10 days and must be examined by a veterinarian.
8. A person or parent of a child bitten by an animal, can swear out a complaint against the owner of the animal at a district court.
9. Anyone who owns 3 or more dogs andor cats needs a private kennel permit.

Fighting Rats

In fighting rats, the first thing to do is to stop feeding them. Place all garbage in metal cans. Remember, food placed outside for dogs, cats and birds help feed rats.

Rats also eat dog ecrement. If you have heavy infestation of rats get HELP! Call the Rat Eradication Program, Housing and Community Development, 396 - 7748.

This

Not This

Next meeting Dunbar High School July 31

Things have gone from bad to worse

By Ida Peters

There are 206 blocks registered in the AFRO's 47th Annual Clean Block Campaign with 2,746 people pledged to keep their block clean.

Every captain in every block has a complaint about city services. Their sewwesewers are stopped up. Merchants in their blocks dump trash and garbage in their corner containers.

Merchants fill drumpsters in housing projects with their garbage and trash.

City agencies are on vacation and are not responding to legitimate complaints from tax payers. The situation has now reached an alarming state.

It's tough to be poor. It's tough to be out of work. But just because some of us are poor and live in the inner city, it does not mean that city hall and the people charged with city services can continue to sit in their ivory towers and air-conditioned offices and ignore the problem.

The problem is that the city is committing what resources are available to Pier 6, Harbor Place, The Belevedere and the new Aquarium with rusty bolts, ($190,000 worth).

We don't need our human resources, normally devoted to cleaning up the city, down at Rash Field.

The first priority in this city should be trash collection; alley cleaning ana rat eradication. Then bring on the music.

Movie party Wed. July 29 at Town Theatre

1981 Clean Blocks

1700 W. Franklin Street: Renee Campbell, Captain; Bessie Little-John, Co-Captain; and Elmer Diggs, Advisor.

Workers: Tammy Campbell, Ernest Roberts, Triza Bell, Michael Campbell, Taste Littlejohn, Hilda Brawner, Della Chaney, Timothy McDough, Jeanie McDough, Derrick Smith, Trina Bell, Tonya Foster Lanette Stokes, William Roberts, Tony Roberts, Evelyn Ross, Herbert Ross, Mary Nippers and Beverly Moore.

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Unit Blk. of Willard Street: Sharonne Lee, Captain; Mrs. Seebreeze, Co-Captain; and Mary Hudson, Advisor.

Workers: Mary Head, Edith Taylor, Rosie Jordan, Shirley Elton, Frances Wilkins, Charnice Johnson, Harris, Captain; Shawntez Ringgold, Co-Captain; and Leona Daniels, Advisor.

Workers: Wayne Jackson, Donnel Hites, Nicholas Fletcher, Zachery Howard, William McCoy, Craig Williams, Ronnie Hank, Tracy Hanc, Kirk Sykes, Timmy King, Tony King, T. Howard, Dante Bunch and Romona W.

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2700 Classen Avenue: Shirley Long, Captain; Marshall Jackson, Co-Captain; and Gloria Jackson, Advisor.

Workers: Nathaniel White, Annette Payne, Willie Davison, Stella Self, Jesse Long, Jacqueline Minor, Leroy Bradford, Myrtle Parran, Gloria Pope, Mary Gaulding, Annie Eaton, Bridgette Hodge, Maro Jackson, M. Jackson, William Moye, Annie Jackson, James Forbes, Cornelius Moye, Helena Long and Francheska Woodley.

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500 N. Stricker Street: Minor Joyner, Captain; Brenda Deloatch, Co-Captain; and Julius Johnsonn, advisor.

Workers: Amy Jackson, Stephen Robinson, Barbara Mitchell, Shirely Goldman, Karen Brinkley, Ethel Rice, Wyoming Carter, Lionel Hall, Anna Mason, Delores Hall, Wilbert Strickland, G. Deloatch, Mary Jones, Joanne Deloatch, Alesha Barnes, Sharon Lassiter, Brenda Deloatch, and Minor Joyner.

— —

500 Pressman Street: Bee Holland, Captain, Ann Spencer, Co-Captain and Maggie Quille, Advisor.

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400 Pressman Street: Terry Sadie, Captain; Ronnie Heartgroom, Co-Captain and Maggie Quille, Advisor.

Workers: All members of the block.

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300 S. Mason Court: Dorothy Davis, Captain; Rosetta Marrow, Co-Captain; and Bessie Williams, Advisor.

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200 S. Mason Court: Selma Gill, Captain; Marjorie Vecellio, Co-Captain; and Charlene Rouzer, Advisor. Co-Captain; and Charlene Rouzer, Advisor.

Workers: Delores Oliver, Dollie Farmer, Mary Moore, Louise Bates, Thelma Jefferson, Albert Wilkerson, Bernice Small, Shirley Brooks, Sylvia Scriber, Charlene Rouzer, Mary Miller, Albert Chaney, Susan Thomas, Yvonne Forrester, Catherine Wiggins, Shirl Ferguson, Brenda Hill, Margaret Sumber, Lolita Graham, Floydetta Parker, Debora F., and Betty Jones.

230 S. Mason Court Mary Logan, Captain Lela Williams, Co Captain; and Alice Fooks, Advisor.

Workers: Karen Jackson, Dionne Fooks, Tanya Fooks, Arnita Williams, Jauneice, Kitty, Cheryl Newsome and Tonia Parks.

Al Bumbrey is special guest at AFRO Clean Block meeting today, Friday, at McCulloh Homes Auditorium.

Herbert McCoy, Michelle Clements, James Clements, Lucy Woodley, Mickey Saterfield, Herbert Hudson, John Hudson, Mary Hudson, Robert Smith, Alfred Smith, Chanel Dixon and Raymond Whiting.

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2700 Giles Road: Edith Williams, Damon Long, Renee Campbell, Doris Robinson, William Curtis, Carol Turner, Kay Wilkinson, Bertha Marion, Ophelia Flournay, Thomas, Elmer Diggs, Clarence Johnson, Bessie Littlejohn, Patricia Roles, Toni, Cassima, Selma Gill, Mary Logan.

New 1981 AFRO Clean Blocks who attended meeting Friday at Dunbar High School included representatives from 300 E. Federal, 1790 W. Franklin, 900 N. Gilmor, 200 S. Dallas Ct.; 100 N. Mount, 1600 Abbotson, 1700 E. Fayette, 2600 Aisquith and 1700 E. Lafayette. From (L), Kendra

AFRO CLEAN BLOCK NEEDS YOU

1. The captain must try to get all persons in the block to sign up and send their names to the AFRO-AMERICAN.
2. He or she must call a meeting of all adults and children and elect a president who will act as an advisor.
3. Have a secretary, who will write down what is done at each meeting and send reports to the AFRO-AMERICAN.
4. Elect a block inspector, who will see that no trash accumulates anywhere in the block.
5. Elect a marshal, who will call out the clean-up brigade at a definite time each day, so that by all working together at the same time, the block will soon improve in appearance.
6. Do not paint trees or curbs.

★ Free Paint

★ Free Seeds

AFRO Clean Block - 628 N. Eutaw - Balto. Md. 21201

Yes. I want to be Captain of my block!

Name _____

Address _____

Zip _____ Telephone _____

MARCHING BANDS Wanted

AFRO's 89th Birthday Parade

Prizes for best units

First Prize $50
Second Prize $35

Other Prizes
Trophies-Certificates

Call Mrs. Peters
Clean Block Office
728-8205

Nation's 1st black Catholic deacon honored

By James M. Abraham
AFRO Staff Writer

Beneath the ornate stained glass and vaulted ceilings of St. Ambrose church, located in the 4500 block Park Heights Avenue, freinds and fellow worshippers of Deacon Americus Roy gathered to pay tribute to the man as he celebrated his tenth anniversary as a deacon of the Catholic church.

Roy, a quiet, unassuming man, has long been a civic leader in the Park Heights area, and Sunday's ceremonies marked his tenure as the first black deacon in the nation of a Catholic church.

The deacon's program was started ten years ago, and was designed to bring qualified laypersons into the church as trained clerical assistants.

Bishop Eugene Marino, himself a black clergyman, explained the role of men like Decaon Roy in the operation of the Catholic church.

"He is an ordained presence of Jesus Christ," intoned the Bishop. "He brings Christ effectively into the marketplace. He has access to the poor, to those who need the good word of the gospel translated into everyday speech and everyday life."

The Bishop also praised Roy for embarking on the road to his deacon's chair at a time when the program was still new and untested.

"Deacon Roy stands among those pioneers as one of the first deacons," he said. "He has been faithful to the call of the Lord and hopefully, this will inspire others to follow his example. We are thankful for the presence of Christ these men bring to the community."

The deacons have the power to administer the Eucharist, perform wedding ceremonies, and officiate at funerals and wakes, as well as baptisms. They are not empowered to give the last rites or hear confessions. They are allowed to marry.

Roy said that he became a convert to the Catholic Catholicism when he was 16.

"I looked at all the other denominations, then looked at the Catholic church and saw that they didn't spend a lot of time with ritual. I saw that they actually showed love for the poor and the deprived through action. The ritual is important, but it has to be meaningful. You have to prove that love through everyday relationships with people."

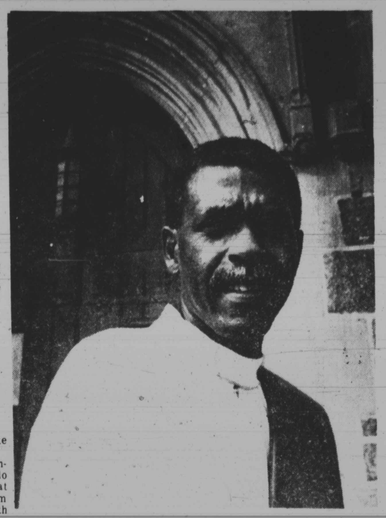
The decision to solicit laypersons for the deacon's positions reflects the move towards modernization of the Catholic church.

In the face of changing populations and mores, the church apparently is attempting to come to grips with the times.

The change in church direction and the impact of Roy and other black church officials is evident at St. Ambrose.

There, one can find both boys and girls serving in what once was an all-male domain—that of the altar boy. The youths are now calles servers. Another change is a gospel choir, which gives the church a more lively but still spiritual mood. St. Ambrose's pastor, Father Henry Verhusen, is also active in the community, and reflects the new spirit of community activism evident at St. Ambrose.

But Roy himself probably summed up this spirit best when, upon accepting a plaque for his efforts over the years, said "I've been refreshed. With the help of God I will continue in the future to serve God, to serve the community, and the people of this church."



FIRST BLACK DEACON — Deacon Americus Roy, shown here posing outside St. Ambrose Rectory in the 4500 block Park Heights Ave., is the first black Catholic deacon in the nation.

Writer launches religious journal

'Faith Journey' to tell the Good News

By Sue Williams
AFRO Staff Writer

Christmas season of 1980 was no easy time for James Jefferson. The former United Press International (UPI) reporter stood in the office of a top-notch Philadelphia printer with the pages of what soon was to be the first edition of a brand new religious magazine.

As the printer quoted the price of the job at hand, ($2500), Jefferson waged a small war in his mind. On the one hand, he argued, he was no businessman. Neither was he an expert in the field of magazine production, and, to add insult to injury, he had no group or organization to back him up, financially, in his newest project. Common sense ordered him to stop the project in its tracks and go home.

But another part of him would not be quieted. He had been a top reporter for years. He had spent hours reporting the bad and the ugly in this country and in others. He had lived a 'guaranteed' and safe existence for a very long time, and still, his soul had not been soothed.

He had decided that there had to be something better to write about, something that people would want to read about, as sort of an affirmation that the life God made was in fact good and was to be cherished. It was that decision that had first put the idea of starting a Christian magazine in his head.

He stood in the plush office that Christmas season, and, amid all the thoughts racing through his mind, one finally rang out with all too certain clarity. There was this part of his existence called faith, something that said God would back him no matter what project he engaged in.

He told the printer to go ahead.

Today, Jefferson, and his small staff of four meet regularly in his home on week-ends to put together his faith venture, "New Expressions."

The magazine, sold almost exclusively in Philadelphia and surrounding areas, has the look of any high - class work coming out of New York City. The writing is excellent, the graphics, convincing, and the pictures an accompaniment to the message of inspiration Jefferson is attempting to communicate.

Jefferson talked to a small group of religious writers at the Third Annual Religious Writers Conference at Howard University, dwelling not so much on the brief moments of indecision and wavering faith he experienced as on the message behind his whole venture.

"I was tired of being a part of throwing out so much negative news," he said, "when there were so many beautiful things happening."

"I've always felt that in order to get anyone to do anything for you," he continued, "you have to pay them.

"But that's not necessarily so. There are a lot of people who will help you if they see what you're trying to do."

As proof of his testimony, Jefferson told the group of his graphic artist who works "48 hours a day" for "Expressions," and the writers who somehow find the time to spend their time and talents selfishly for the creation of Jefferson's dream.

"I sympathize with people," said Jefferson, "who know there's something else out there." Gesturing with his hands toward the air, Jefferson said that he had wished there had been someone to draw his dreams out of him along the way, and said that that void in his life inspired him to want to help draw others out.

Likening his journeys to find himself and his talents to the founding of electricity, Jefferson told the group that they ought not be afraid to "run out with the kite and the key."

"If you wait to get all the answers as to how you're going to do something, you'll never do what you want," he said. "I am suggesting that you run out with the kite and the key."

Jefferson said he prefers to label his magazine "inspirational and motivational" rather than religious. Sales, he said, are slow, depending entirely at this point on subscriptions. With the publication of the third issue imminent, Jefferson says he does not know where the money to pay for it will come from, but he's not worried.

"Even if we never see another issue," he said softly, "I'll have no regrets." Having launched out on faith and seen its rewards, Jefferson feels he has discovered his equivalent of electricity.

But in his mind, he feels confident that the faith which put him in that printer's office Christmas, 1980, will be the same faith that will see him through the hard times ahead. There is a mission behind his work, after all.

"If getting into the Bible and living faith means people say, I'm crazy, then so be it," he said flatly.

"Faith means," he continued, "taking a risk."

Baptists honor Mrs. Culp

Friends and well-wishers gathered at LaFontaine Bleu on Thursday, July 21 to pay tribute to Thelma Culp, past president of the Women's Auxiliary of the Maryland Baptist Convention.

The group, which is headed by Rev. William Brown, presented Mrs. Culp with an ornate plaque for her years of service.

More than 200 gathered to hear selections by the Travelaires Gospel Singers, praise the Lord through lovous music.

Remarks were made by Mrs. Helen Brackett, president of the Gold Leaf Club; and Ernest Dorsey, Maryland Baptist Convetion Youth Department Director.

A special, emotional touch was added with "Love Ties," which consisted of Mrs. Culp's husband, Rev. Joseph Culp, family member Mrs. Betty Donaldson, and friends Mrs. Euther Taylor and Mrs. Bernice Meade telling the audience of their love for the gracious lady. A solo was also performed by Mrs. Joyce Hanner.

Footnotes were read by Mrs. Elaine Waters, chairperson of the event, and a thoughful benidiction from Rev. Frank Bell sent the guests home feeling spiritually refreshed.

AFRO Photo by Mark Gail

HONORED LADY — Mrs. Thelma Culp beams after being presented with a plaque in honor of her achievements in the church community of Maryland.

Metro Church Briefs

Mid-summer Youth Revival

Today, Friday, Grace African Methodist Episcopal Church will host a Mid-summer Youth Revival at 7 p.m. The affair is being sponsored by the Young Adult Choir of Grace and will feature guest soloists and choir. The message will be delivered by Brother Thomas R. Jones, Sr. of the church. Grace is located on 67 Winters Lane in Catonsville. The pastor is Rev. Reginald Boston.

Pare Prayer Breakfast set for Saturday

On Saturday, July 25, St. John AME church, at Carrollton and Lafayette Ave., will host a prayer breakfast. The keynote speaker will be Dr. Walter S. Thomas. The program's theme is "We Need Prayer", and is the kick-off event for a week of church-related activities. The breakfast will begin at 9 a.m. Other events scheduled for the week include a revival at Gillis Memorial church, located on 912 Gilmor. The speaker at the event will be Rev. Mildred Jessup, Gillis pastor. The week will climax with an Altar Call, which will be held in Druid Hill Park on Swann Drive. Speakers at the Altar Call include Bethel AME's pastor Rev. John Bryant, Dr. Haold Carter of New Shiloh Baptist church, and Rev. Benjamin Foust, pastor of St. John's. For further information on the activities, call 728-6389 or 383-9281.

Anniversary Event for Cherry Hill Pastor

First Baptist Church, located on 823 Cherry Hill Rd., will pay tribute to the congregation's pastor on Sunday, July 26. The event is the second annual Pastor's Day, and the seventh anninversary for pastor Rev. Henry Simon. Rev. Chambers of Antioch Baptist church will be the keynote speaker at Sunday service. A banquet will also be held, and it will begin at 6 p.m.

Vacation Bible School Begins

An exciting program of Bible study and recreation has been planned by members of St. Timothy's Baptist church for the month of August. The school will begin on Monday, July 27, and run through Friday, August 7.

"Jesus, Your Word Lives In Me," is the theme of the school, which is located at 1214 W. Saratoga St.

25th Anniversary set for Shiloh Choir

The Sanctuary Choir of Shiloh C.C. church will hold its 25th anniversary celebration on Sunday, August 2 at 3:30 p.m. The day's theme will be "Silver Streak to Heaven", and a play entitled "Heaven's Best" will be presented. The play was written and produced by the church's organist, Harlon O. Scott. The church's pastor is Rev. George Baynard. For further information contact Beverly Dove at 396-1421.

Men's Day at New Carmel

New Carmel Star Baptist Church will host its Annual Men's Day Servu Service on Sunday, August 2. The day will begin at 7:30 a.m., with a sermon by Rev. James R. Jones. A special service is also slated, which will begin at 3 p.m.

The keynote speaker will be Rev. Eugene Carter of the Good Sheperd Baptist church. There is a $2.50 donation for the breakfast.

The church's pastor is Rev. Leander Brown.

Knox Celebrates Second Anniversary

Knox Presbyterian church will be the scene of celebration and fellowship Sunday, July 26, as the members commemorate the 2nd anniversary of their building. The church is located on Preston and Eager Sts., and the pastor is Rev. Lonnie Oliver. For further information contact 385-0900.

A JOYFUL NOISE — Members of the Travelaires serenade Mrs. Thelma Culp at banquet held in her honor last week at LaFontaine Bleu.

AFRO Photo by Mark Gail

WILLIE RAY — Pastor Willie Ray of Redeemer's Palace holds city officials spell - bound as he explains the nature of his youth program to guests at a special luncheon for city finance director Charles Benton and others.

AFRO Photo by Mark Gail

2500 due here for Usher Conference

On Monday, July 27, Baltimore will be the host city for the 62nd annual National United Church Ushers Association of America convention.

More than 2500 delegates are expected to attend the affair, and they will represent almost 100 cities.

An all-star cast of top local officials will be on hand to welcome the members. They include Rep. Parren J. Mitchell, D-7; Mayor William Donald Schaefer; and Wanda Schloeder, executive assistant to Governor Harry Hughes will welcome the delegates.

Rep. Mitchell will be honored by the Interdenominational Church Ushers of Maryland during the event. He will be awarded a plaque for his record of acheivement.

The convention will be headquartered at the Baltimore Hilton Hotel, located at 101 W. Fayette St., and will be in session from July 27 through July 31.

On tap at the affair will be a keynote sermon by Rev. Paris S. Thompson of Mt. Hebron Baptist church. There also will be ushering workshops sponsored by the School of Ushering. The students participating in the ushering workshops will also be able to take advantage of several inspiring and historical messages on their role in their churches.

Other convention highlights include a scholarship, awards program, music, a youth pageant and a business session.

A banquet will be held to honor Henryetta Gray, of Washington, D.C., and Mattie Gardette of Los Angeles, Ca. Mrs. Gray is the past national recording secretary of the NUCUAA, and first lady of the Interdenominational Church Ushers Association of Washington, D.C. Ms. Gardette is a past national young adult president of the NUCUAA.

The convention theme this year is "Hewing Out the Wood Country," which is taken from Joshua 11:15.

The organization was founded in 1910 by the late Elijah Alexander Hamilton. Currently, there are approximately 50,000 members spread across the continent. The purpose of the group is to develop high ideals of service and leadership among laymen who serve as church ushers in churches across the nation.