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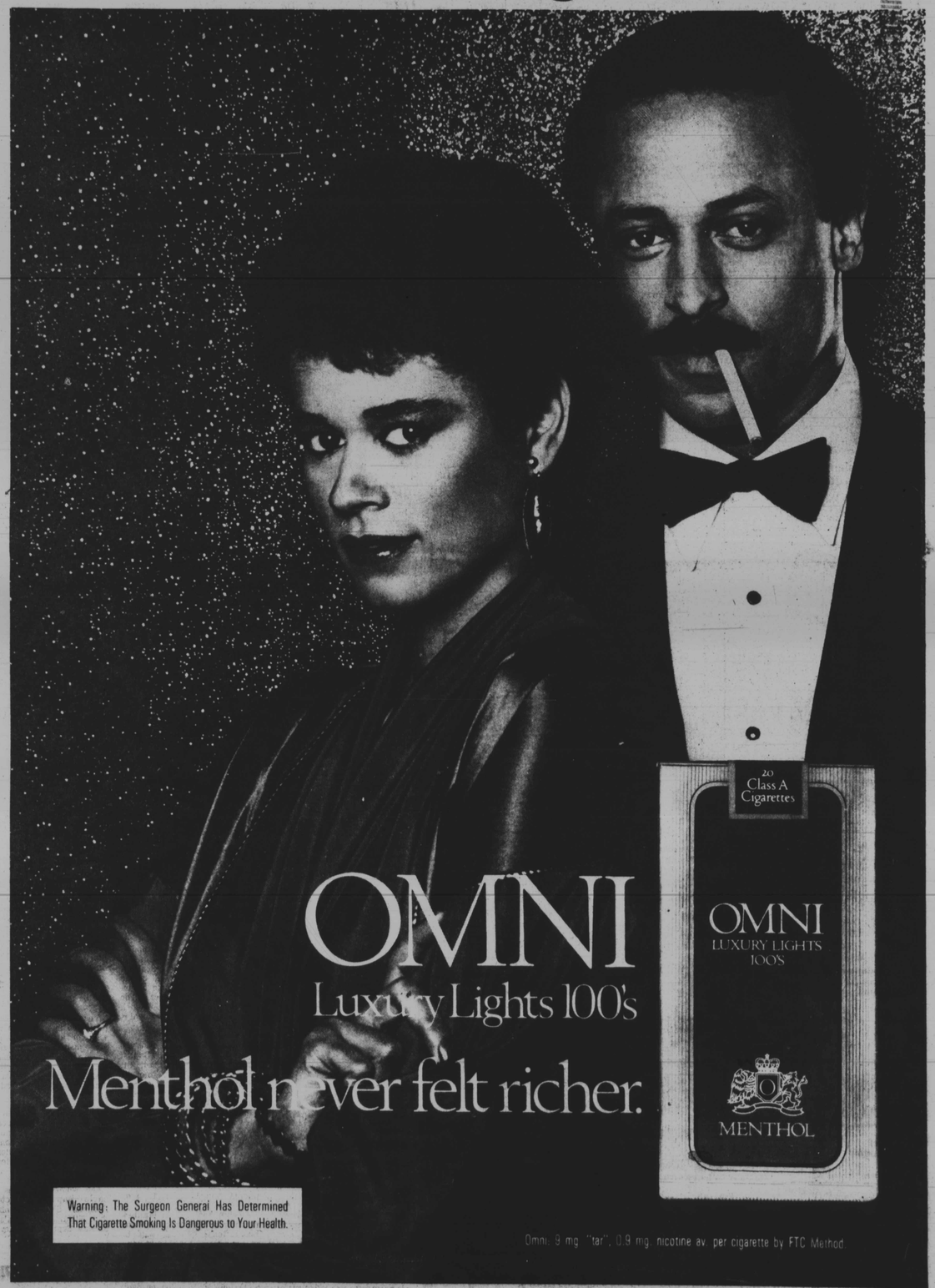


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# THE LIVING CHURCH

How to get more food for your dollar

## Food co-ops taking shape all over city

FILLED TO THE BRIM — Mrs. Joan Johnson Ledbetter, a member of the food buying at Heritage United Church of Christ, 3106 Liberty Heights Ave., is shown filling a bag of fresh fruits and vegetables at the co-op. Food is distributed to members every other Thursday between 3 and 6 p.m.

By Pam Widgeon
AFRO Religious Editor

Cooperatives have become the economic power base all across the country. Among those type are food, banking, fuel and housing. This series will take a look at church food co-ops and their impact on Baltimore and its residents.

Local churches have been trying to fight inflation with food co-ops. Food cooperatives purchase food in bulk from the Maryland Wholesale Food Warehouse in Jessup. The fruits and vegetables are weighed, bagged and distributed by the churches.

At Heritage United Church of Christ, 3106 Liberty Heights Ave., where the Rev. Wendell H. Phillips is pastor, Mrs. Inez Carrington stated, "Co-ops bring groups together to work collectively to bring about a change in our lives. It gives the church an opportunity to create a mission with the community and bring the community together.

"It also gives us an opportunity to get back to the basic foods of fresh fruits and vegetables."

Heritage has a lifetime membership fee of $5 and for $5.00 you can get a half order and for $10.00 you get a whole order consisting of five different types of fresh fruits and vegetables. A surcharge of $1.00 to cover expenses is added to each order.

The Heritage food buying club is open to the public but will be limited to 300 members. Mrs. Carrington stated, "We feel we have the kind of buying power when we are not buying in extremely large quantities. We are able to find the quantity and the quality of the food we need."

Food is distributed every other Thursday between 3 and 6 p.m. at Heritage and orders are placed on the preceeding Tuesday. The church accepts food stamps.

When purchasing food for a co-op, Mrs. Carrington told the AFRO, "We are able to taste the fruit before distribution and open the crates to see if the quality is what we are looking for. We can be very selective."

Mrs. Carrington believes that if a food buying club is too large, you can't get the food you want." At Heritage, there is no waiting in line and your bags are packed when you arrive.

Food is ordered twice a month and orders are to be placed no later than Tuesday before the run. If you are interested in joining Heritage's food buying club, call the church.

In East Baltimore, Knox Presbyterian Church and members of St. Francis Xavier Church have formed a co-op at St. Francis at Caroline and Oliver Street and has distributed food for two weeks.

Mrs. Katherine Brown has been a member of a food buying club since 1979 and has not purchased any fruits, vegetables, fish or chicken from the market since she joined.

When shopping at local food stores, Mrs. Brown said, "I would not buy four types of fresh vegetables at one time because of the prices."

Co-ops can offer a savings of 20 to 50 percent in your weekly grocery shopping. Due to the limited space at the church, the co-op is still open for new members but will be limited to 300 members. A survey sheet is distributed to all members to decide what vegetables and fruits they would like to receive. The food committee then decides on what items to purchase.

**Editor's Note: Next week read about the special breakfast package and other foods offered to the public at New Shiloh's co-op**

AFRO Photo by Roman Hankewycz

BUNDLE OF GOODIES — Reginald Carrington, 13-year-old member of Heritage United Church of Christ is shown taking a burlap bag of food for Mrs. Dolores Street, who is a member of Heritage Church food buying club. The minimum fee for all orders is $5.00 for half orders and $10.00 for full orders.

FISH AND CHICKEN are also sold at the co - op held every two weeks at St. Francis Xavier Church in East Baltimore. Isaiah N. Claiborne Sr., AFRO photo by Roman Hankewycz is shown placing a bag of fresh fish in Mrs. Valetta Ralph's bag, while Mrs. Corrine Boyd is trying to decide if she is going to buy some fish.

## AME Zion, CME to form joint denomination

By Yvonne Carter

Members of the African Methodist Episcopal (A.M.E.) Zion and the Christian Methodist Episcopal (C.M.E.) Churches held joint denominational worship services last weekend to pursue a possible union between the two bodies.

Bishops of both denominations announced at the service that they are making substantial progress in developing a timetable toward the union. The merger will be the largest ever to take place among black methodist churches in the U.S.

The two-day meeting included discussion sessions involving the bishops of both churches and a public worship service at the Israel Metropolitan C.M.E. Church with the Bishop William M. Smith presiding.

In a keynote address at the services the Rev. G. Ray Coleman, pastor of the John Wesley A.M.E. Zion Church pointed out that both churches have common beliefs, faith and doctrines.

He indicated that he sees a church merger as a political effort. But a church union, he said, is a unification of two bodies. It is two bodies coming together as one—doing new and better things as a union, he explained.

Coleman urged the two denominations to move forward with the union. He emphasized that if the union takes place it would have to be through the Holy Spirit.

The general conferences of both bodies have approved resolutions to immediately begin the process and organization for the union. the timetable includes a series of discussions to take place within the next several months. The discussions will cover church history and doctrine, organization and structure, educational institutions and theological doctrine, publications and literature, mission, budget and finance.

Bishop Nathaniel Linsey of the C.M.E. Church emphasized that the two colleges of bishops had a chance to know one another at the meeting. He noted that the two churches voted unanimously to play an active role in bringing about fellowship between the two denominations.

"We will be uniting to save souls for Christ. We will be able to witness effectively the needs of black people," he said.

In a joint statement announcing progress toward the union, bishops of the A.M.E. Zion and C.M.E. Churches indicated that they are pleased that the dialogue is moving ahead with a spirit of unity and basic concern about the steps necessary to join the churches on both administrative and spiritual levels.

"We feel strongly that this union will enable us to serve our membership even more effectively than we do at present. It will bring together the combined strength of our memberships both for additional impact on the religious community and to strengthen the effectiveness of our community service and missionary work," the statement read.

Serving on the Board of Bishops of the A.M.E. Zion Church are Cecil Bishop, 12th District: Herman L. Anderson, 11th District; Ruben L. Speaks, 10th District; John H. Miller, 8th District; Arthur Marshall, Jr., 7th District; Clinton R. Coleman, 6th District; James W. Wactor, 5th District; William A. Hilliard (Retired); William M. Smith, 1st District; Alfred G. Dunston, Jr. 2nd District: Charles H. Foggie, 3rd District; J. Clinton Hoggard, 4th District.

Bishops Felix Sylvester Anderson and William Andrew Stewart are retired members of the A.M.E. Zion Board.

Members of the College of Bishops of the C.M.E. Church are Henry C. Bunton, 4th District; P. Randolph Shy, 2nd District; James L. Cummings, 9th District.

## Metro church briefs

A reception will be held Sunday, Sept. 27 at Heritage United Church of Christ, 3106 Liberty Heights Ave., for the Rev. Wendell H. Phillips, pastor of the church. Rev. Phillips has served as pastor of Heritage for 17 years.

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The Senior Choir of Bethel AME Church will present Margaret Lindsay in concert on Sept. 26, 6 p.m. at the church, 1301 Druid Hill Ave. The Rev. John R. Bryant is pastor.

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The women of John Wesley United Methodist Church, North Avenue and Bloomingdale Road will observe Women's Day on Sunday, Sept. 27. Their theme is "Christian Women's Love Made Visible."

Mrs. Minnie Washington, wife of the Rev. Carl Washington and pastor of St. Timothy Baptist Church will be the 11 a.m. speaker. Mrs. Doris Duncan is Women's Day chairperson and the Rev. Calvin P. Crosson is pastor.

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The Tones of Faith of Knox United Presbyterian Church, 1300 Eden Street will celebrate their seventh anniversary on Sept. 27, 5 p.m. Mrs. Jackie Green is president and the Rev. Lonnie J. Oliver is pastor.

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The women of Campfield AME Church will celebrate their first Women's Day on Sept. 27, 11 a.m. The Rev. Delores Hillman of Bethel AME Church will be the speaker and Mrs. Edith H. Bryant of Bethel is the 3:30 p.m. speaker. Mrs. Willene Powell is chairman, Mrs. Bertha Ramsen is co-chairman and the Rev. Harold McFadden is pastor.

The Male Chorus of Sharon Baptist Church will be presented in concert at Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church on Sept. 26, 7:30 p.m. **Alton Harrison is chairman; Henry Barnes is co-chairman and the Rev. Clifford M. Johnson is pastor.**

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Revival services will be held at First Baptist Church, 525-27 Caroline St., Sept. 28 through Oct. 2. The Rev. Nathaniel Higgs, pastor of Southern Baptist Church will be the speaker and services will be held 7:30 p.m.

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The Trustees Auxiliary of the Centennial United Methodist Church will be celebrating its 30th anniversary on Sunday, Sept. 27. The 11 a.m. speaker will be the Rev. Wayland Davis and a candlelight memorial services will be held at 3 p.m. Mildred E. Waddell is chairperson and Sarah Royal is president.

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Officers Day will be observed Sept. 27 at Leadenhall Baptist Church, 1021 Leadenhall St. James Cherry is chairman of the Deacon Board, Harvey E. Gordon Jr., is chairman of the Trustee Board and the Rev. Dr. Eddie R. Wilson Jr., is pastor.

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Officers of Waters AME Church, 417 Aisquith St., will observe their annual day on Sunday, Sept. 27. The Rev. William W. Payne, minister of City Temple of Baltimore Baptist Church will be the 11 a.m. speaker.

Amelita Toomer and Matthew Robinson of First Apostolic Faith Institutional Church will be presented in concert at 3:30 p.m.

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The Willing Workers of First Charity Baptist Church will observe their anniversary on Sept. 27, 3:30 p.m. The Rev. Franklin will be the speaker.

GOSPEL SHOW — Willie Banks and the Messengers will be singing Oct. 4 3:30 p.m. at the ninth anniversary of celebration of Billy Taylor. The gospel show will be held at St. Bernardine's Church, Edmondson Avenue and Mt. Holly Street. Other groups participating will be the Maryland All Stars, The Starlighters, McNeil Singers and St. Bernadine's Church Choir.

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Vocal Artists Ensemble will be presented in concert on Sept. 27, 4,30 p.m. at Metropolitan United Methodist Church, Lanvale Street and Carrollton Ave. Members of the Ensemble are Rebbeca Sydnor, Dorothy Lofton Jones, James Nathan Jones and Joseph Pearson.

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Members of Patterson Asbury AME Methodist Church, 2211 Division St., will sponsor a mortgage liquidation banquet on Oct. 31, 7 p.m. at the Hilton Hotel. The Rev. Lorenza R. Meekins is pastor.

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The women of Jones Tabernacle Baptist Church, 2100 Baltimore St., will be observing their 36th annual Women's Day on Sunday, Sept 26. The Rev. Violet Fisher of Washington, D. C. will be the 11 a.m. speaker. Mrs. Rosa Coleman is co-chairperson, Deaconess Julia B. Anderson, co-chairperson and the Rev. Arthur E. Jones is pastor.

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