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THE LIVING CHURCH

EASTSIDE BAPTIST MEMBERS seen at the annual banquet sponsored by the Fund Raising Extension Development Committee (F.R.E.D.) AFRO photo by Roman Hankewycz shown seated from left are Mrs. Hedy Johnson, Mrs. Laura Horne, Joseph Edwards, Mrs. Hattie Killibrey and Mrs. Helen Stewart.

HEAD TABLE GUESTS who participated on the program of the Fund Raising Extension Development Committee March 18, shown from left, are, Mrs. Bessie Mason, president of the Women's Convention; the Rev. C. C. Alexander, banquet chairman and Mrs. Carolyn Alexander, wife of Rev. Alexander. Proceeds from the banquet will be used for the Maryland Baptist Home for the Aged, 2801 Raynor Ave.

CHAIRPERSON for the annual benefit banquet of the Fund Raising Extension Development Committee is the Rev. Dr. Lorenzo Graves. The Rev. Dr. Harold A. Carter was the guest speaker.

350 GUESTS attended the annual F.R.E.D. banquet held March 18 at the Hilton Hotel downtown. Among guests seen at the banquet shown seated from left are Mrs. Edna Henderson, William Henderson, Mrs. Margie Johnson, Mrs. Paulette Alexander and Cleveland Alexander. "The Churches Responsibility to the Aged and the Underprivileged," was the theme for the banquet.

Episcopalians elect new bishop

Maryland Episcopalians have elected a California native as the state's next bishop, church officials said.

The Rev. A. Theodore Eastman, 53, of Washington, defeated seven other candidates for the position of bishop coadjutor of the Maryland diocese. The coadjutor will share duties with the Right Rev. David K. Leighton Sr., who is expected to retire in about five years. Eastman will automatically succeed Leighton.

Eastman, who is rector of St. Alban's Church in Washington, DC was elected on the third ballot, receiving 210 of the 357 votes cast by clergy and lay delegates meeting at a special convention.

"I am obviously stunned and excited. I really wasn't prepared to be elected," he said.

Eastman said he saw "no reason why" he would not offer Leighton his official acceptance at a meeting in Baltimore this week.

"I just need a couple of days on a thing like this," he added. The consecration of the new bishop, who will become the twelfth head of the Maryland Diocese and the first in 190 years who previously had not served a parish in the state, is tentatively set for the third Saturday in June.

Eastman, who was born in San Mateo, Calif., was educated at Haverford College and the Virginia Theological seminary.

Initially, the new bishop's salary will be $30,389 with an additional $5,000 expense account.

In a statement prepared for the delegates before the election, Eastman said the Episcopal church "needs to recover an appropriate sense of confidence in its mission, so that we may speak with authority, clarity, unity and humility, and act with the assurance that God uses our weakness to help heal the hurts of the broken ones in our fragmented world."

Metro church briefs

The Pastor's Aide of Morning Star Baptist Church, 1063 Fayette St., will present Samuel Jonathan Ray in concert on Sunday, March 28, 3:30 p.m. at the church, 1063 Fayette St. The Rev. Samuel Ray is pastor.

Ray is a student at Andover Senior High School in Glen Burnie. He is the co-director of music for the Iona Rhodes Fellowship Youth Choir, Louise Robinson Mass Choir and Garnett Male Chorus of Morning Star. He is the son of Rev. and Mrs. Samuel Ray. Mrs. Matilda Whirley is president of the Pastor's Aide.

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The Men's Chorus of Knox United Presbyterian Church, 1300 Eden St., will celebrate their eighth anniversary on Sunday, March 28, 5 p. m.

Willie Rush is president, Dr. Roy F. Knight, director and the Rev. Dr. Lonnie J. Oliver is pastor.

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"New Shiloh's Women Working for Miracles in 1982" is the theme for Women's Day at New Shiloh Baptist Church, Fremont Avenue and Lanvale Street. As part of the pre-Women's Day activities, the women of the church will sponsor holy week evangelistic services April 4-7, 7 p.m. at the church.

The 150 voice Women's Day Choir will be presented in concert on April 8 and the Rev. Dr. Harold A. Carter, pastor, will be preaching. Women's Day will be observed on April 18.

CONCERT — The Mortgage Committee of Bethel AME Church, Druid Hill Avenue and Lanvale Street, will present the Morris Brown University Choir of Atlanta, GA, in concert on April 4, 4 p.m., at the church. Mrs. Mary Robinson is chairperson and the Rev. Dr. John R. Bryant is pastor.

MINISTERS WIVES — The Interdenominational Ministers Wives and Ministers Widows will observe their Founders Day today (Friday) 7 p.m. at Morning Star Baptist Church, 1063 Fayette St. Mrs. Mary E. Harrington is chairman. Members shown seated from left are Mrs. Anna Gilchrist, Mrs. Marie Moyd, president; Mrs. Mary Revels. Standing from left are Mrs. Estelle Dobson, Mrs. Florence Queen, Mrs. Emma L. Daniels and Mrs. Edith Bryant. Members not shown are Mrs. Mary Harrington, Mrs. Janet Cox, Mrs. Dorothy Johnson, Mrs. Goldie Kitchen, Mrs. Marion Bowman and Mrs. Audrey G. Bell.

Maryland senate ask for pro-prayer legislation

By John W. Freece

The Maryland Senate has voted overwhelmingly to ask Congress to enact legislation that would counteract court decisions it believes have discouraged voluntary prayer in public schools.

The resolution, which now goes to the House of Delegates, was approved March 22 by a 34-9 vote despite one opponent's argument that it urges congress "to amend the constitution through the back door."

The resolution introduced by Sen. Joseph Bonvegna, D-Baltimore, states, in part, that the General Assembly of Maryland urges Congress "to enact appropriate legislation to ensure the free exercise of religious rights by public school students and faculty and to counteract the effect of court decisions which have created an atmosphere which discourages the exercise of these rights..."

Majority leader Rosalie Abrams, D-Baltimore, was the first to take the floor against the measure, reading a lengthy prepared speech declaring her commitment to freedom of religion, but her opposition to government interference.

She called government neutrality on religious issues "The common bond that united us all."

She also said conservatives, such as columnist James J. Kilpatrick and Sen. Barry Goldwater, R-Ariz., have joined with civil libertarians in opposition to such efforts elsewhere in the country.

Sen. HOWARD Denis, R-Montgomery, another opponent, said such measurers were usually prompted by religious fundamentalists who, unable to get their way through the federal courts, want Congress to limit the jurisdiction such courts have in state matters.

"They want to amend the constitution through the back door," he said.

Sen. Norman Stone, D-Baltimore County, said, "I don't think it limits the court's right to decide these matters."

To that, however, Sen. Victor Crawford, D-Montgomery, asked: "Isn't it true the only legislation the Congress can enact in compliance with the resolution is legislation to limit the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court?"

Stone, said, "No," but said he could not immediately think of other legislation congress might enact to satisfy the resolution.

Later this session, the senate will also be asked to consider a bill, also introduced by Bonvegna, that would require public school teachers to set aside time each day for voluntary meditation by their students.

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