A MULTI-MILLION DOLLAR ESTATE WHERE KIDS PLAY AND STUDY

Here is what happens when a minister dreams great dreams

Bishop Saunders always wanted children to have a school in a setting of land, trees and beauty for creative learning

By Elizabeth M. Oliver
City Editor

In his youth, Bishop Monroe H. Saunders had an humble job at the Samuel Ready School when it was at Harford Rd. and North Avenue. Later it became a school for elite girls and located on vast lands, on Route 40 known also as Baltimore National Pike.

The estate with its manor house, residence, other large brick buildings, tennis courts and play fields is on 25 acres of beautiful Old English - type wooded lands. The courtyards and lawns are set off by abundant evergreens and shrubbery.

Following a dream he had of just such (an ideal country) setting for children's Creative Learning School and his First United Church of Jesus Christ Apostolic, Bishop Saunders and his congregation in 1978 purchased the Ready estate for over $1 million.

In no time at all, it seems, both the school and church unfolded into reality, and today the fantastic estate is a showplace, with a distinguished congregation and over 100 youngsters enrolled from kindergarten through the 6th grade in the Creative Learning Center.

The dream now fulfilled, witnesses the youngsters enjoying a setting in a natural wonderland of luxury they otherwise could not have known.

Rev. Monroe H. Saunders Jr. is school director and assistant pastor of the church. Mrs. Bernice Shelton is administrative secretary; Mrs. Catherine Frisby, retired Baltimore public school principal, is principal; Mrs. Theodosia Pinder is program director for Day Care Head teachers are, Mrs. Cubie Stevenson, kindergarten; Mrs. Valerie White, 1st Grade; Mrs. Rhoda Boomer, 2nd and 3rd grades and Mrs. Marion Wharton, 4th, 5th and 6th grades.

Many assistants are on the staff which has charge of the youngsters from pre - kindergarten to 6th grade five days a week.

The staff includes caretakers of buildings and grounds and meals in the large kitchen and service in the dining room.

For admission, Bishop Saunders asks that parents or guardians make appointment to come in for a conference by calling 945 - 0664, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Bishop Saunders, is the founder of the First United Church of Jesus Christ Apostolic in Baltimore and now serves as its presiding bishop in Maryland, Canada, England, Africa and the Caribbean as well as in the United States.

An exceptionally likeable man, he at the same time an example of high quality and aristocracy, a lover of the fine things he wants for children of all ages and stations in life.

The residence he, his wife and family occupy is a mansion overlooking a lake in Northwest Baltimore. They live quietly but taking large responsibility in the community and the church.

The First United Church also owns the new Abundant Life Towers elderly housing development at Callaway and Coldspring Lane.

Bishop Saunders is: Member, Board of School Commissioners. Member, Board of Trustees, Provident Hospital. Commissioner on Aging and Retirement Education, City of Baltimore.

Member, Executive Committee, Area Agency on aging.

Member, Baltimore's Best Committee.

Member, Grants Committee, Area Agency on Aging.

Member, Board of Directors, O.I.C., Washington, DC.

Member, Advisory Council, Department of Religious Studies, Morgan State University.

President, Board of Directors, First United Maryland Federal Credit Union.

Member, Board of Trustees, Community College of Baltimore.

THE CREATOR of the learning center is Bishop Monroe H. Saunders shown here at his desk in the great library which looks out on a formal courtyard through many high windows.

THE JOY OF LEARNING in colorful, bright classrooms is part of the curriculum. Mrs. Marian Wharton (left panel) is the 4th, 5th and 6th grade teacher.

THE MANOR HOUSE with its countless spacious rooms serves as the school for the 110 children, faculty and administration. The First United Church of Jesus Christ Apostolic building, equally as large, is in the rear and flanked by tennis courts and gardens. Here the children enjoy a game on the expansive lawns.

All photos by Glasco Ryales

MRS. CATHERINE FRISBY, a retired city principal and Bishop Saunders.

Women's Day at Mt. Zion AME

The women of Mt. Zion AME Church, Long Green, Md., will observe their annual Women's Day on March 28.

The Rev. Mary Antoinette Phillips, assistant pastor of New Bethel Christian Community Church will be the 11 a.m. speaker and the Rev. Leslie Barnett, a member of Pennsylvania Avenue AME Zion Church will be the 3:30 p.m. speaker. The theme for Women's Day is "Christian Women Reaching the Masses."

As part of the pre-Women's Day activities, revival services were held at the church March 24-26. The speakers were Mrs. Eleanor B. Graham of Bethel AME, Rev. JoAnn Morris and the Rev. Agnes Alston of Gillis Memorial Christian Community Church. The Rev. Dr. Maurice T. Wilson is pastor.

SWEET MUSIC comes from happy children who are taught by Stanley Brown.

VISITORS FROM AFRICA — Jean Claude N'Da, a master's deg. student in business administration at the University of Baltimore, is a native of Africa. His guests from his home who now reside in Canada are shown at his Charles Plaza residence in Baltimore (L to R) Mr. N'Da, Mrs. Marie Claude Usher, Mrs. Cecile Ayepa, Ange Ayepa, Georges Ayepa and Mrs. Henriette Ayepa.

Church briefs

The Rev. Leroy Fitts, pastor of First Baptist Church, 525 N. Caroline St., will conduct the Sabbath Bible School March 27, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

The Original Silver Leaf Gospel Singers will observe their 25th anniversary on March 28 and 29 at New Metropolitan Baptist Church, McCulloh and Mosher Street. Carter Robinson is president, Mrs. Sally Lovelist is secretary and the Rev. Lawyer Swinson is pastor.

SHOWTIME

Walbrook honors veteran actress, Mary West Miller

IDA PETERS

What's Happening

The Drama Club of Walbrook High School under the direction of Ms Cheryl Pasteur presented four one-act plays Wednesday night at the school to create a scholarship to be named for Ms Mary West Miller, veteran teacher and Arena Player.

Also, Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority made a cash donation to the fund. Ms Pasteur told the audience Ms Miller "is our sweet inspiration".

The four one-act plays were a profile of four women who did it their own way. Theme was "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings". The plays were "Soul Going Home" by Langston Hughes; "Loving Kindness", "Cruiter", and "Job Interview".

Senior students who participated were Jackie Slater, Karen Morton, Marsha Harris, Curtis Parker, Sonja Jordan, Willie Stanley, Vanessa Mines, Martin Stockton, Robin McCorkle, Janice Madden, Sheila Gaskins;

Also, Warren Johnson, Andre Matthews, Brenda Sturdivant, Anthony Matthews, Diosa Gary, Eileen Gates, Anna Richardson, Valarie Davis, Sandra Grant, Leah Hunter, Homer Williams, and Freda Hunter.

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The Methodist Men of Sharp Street Memorial Methodist Church are presenting Dr. Percy Thomas in "Promised Land", tonight (Friday).

Mary West Miller

Dr. Percy Thomas stars in "Promised Land," Friday, March 26 at Sharp Street Memorial Methodist Church.

Jeanette Walters in concert Saturday, March 27, 7:30 p.m. at Dunbar High School Performing Arts Center.

Invitation in the mail today for a press briefing with Eubie Blake and Mayor William D. Schaefer for Monday, March 29 at 11 a.m. at the Baltimore School for the Arts.

The Arena Players have announced they are dropping their production of "Once Upon A Mattress" and replacing with the musical "Eubie" a production of Ashton Springer based on the world famous songs of Eubie Blake... especially from his 1920's "Shuffle Along" April 2-30 and May 1-3, Arena Players will present "See How They Run. For more information call 728-6500

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"One Mo' Time", the singing, dancing grand revue about New Orleans that played to standing room crowds earlier this year, will be back at the Mechanic Theatre April 19.

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The famed Boys Choir of Harlem, who won such acclaim on their last concert in Baltimore will be back April 10 at 7 p.m. at Dunbar Performing Arts Theatre. They are being presented by the Urban Services Cultural Arts Program under Norman Ross.

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"Terra Nova" by Ted Tally is now playing at Center Stage thru April 25. In the winter of 1911-12, five Englishmen and five Norwegians race each other to the bottom of the earth. Only the five Norwegians return. This is the stop of the five Englishmen.

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Raschid Yahya will begin his Jazz Workshops on April 5 at the Dunbar Cultural Arts Center under the Urban Services Agency. The Jazz Piano Workshop with bass players and drummers invited meets on Mondays from 7 to 10 p.m.

The Jazz Ensemble Workshop meets Wednesdays from 7 to 10 p.m. Raschid Yahya is also presenting a eight-week Piano Workshop at the Lafayette Square Multi-Purpose Center, Miss Patricia Jones, coordinator starting Monday, April 5.

'Morning's at Seven'... and all is not right with world!

The year's at the spring,
And Day's at the morn;
Morning's at seven;
The hill-side's dew pearled;
The lark's on the wing;
The snail's on the thorn:
God's in His heaven —
All's right with the world.
— Robert Browning

Put four sisters over 60 anywhere USA... one of them a spinister, add three husbands and one son over 40 who has been going with his girlfriend for 12 years and you have a mishmash.

At the Mechanic Theatre you have Paul Osborn's 1980 Tony Award winning comedy "Morning's At Seven". Add nine of the most talented and professional actors and actresses in the theatre today and you have one of the most heartwarming, rib tickling performances to play the Mechanic in many a year.

And, this play proves you don't need filthy language, x-rated nudity to show a slice of life in America.

William Ritman has designed a marvelous setting of the backyards of two Victorian frame houses in a small Midwestern town. Barely visible are the insides of the two kitchens. The play is set in 1922 in three acts; late afternoon, early the next morning and a few minutes later.

Williams Browning's poem, Morning's at seven... usually has God in his heaven and all's right with the world. In Act 2 at seven is when the family learns the 40-year-old son is going to bring his financee home for the first time in 12 years and all three families break down with one funny crises after the other.

In the house on the right are sisters, Cora Swanson (Teresa Wright) and her husband, Theodore (Maurice Copeland). Living with them is spinister sister, Aaronetta Gibbs (Elizabeth Wilson).

Cora wants a home of her own because she thinks her husband is sleeping with her sister. Theodore doesn't want to break up living with the two sisters because he did slip once, 45 years ago, and he has a guilty conscience.

In the house on the left are Ida Bolton (Harriett Rogers) and Carl Bolton (King Donovan) and their 40-year-old son, Homer Bolton (Robert Moberly)

Ida is trying to cope with her seventish husband who has fits and stands for hours with his head against the wall. He seems to have missed the fork in the road and keeps running away to turn his life around by taking the right fork.

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Son Homer brings his fiancee to visit and agonizes about leaving home and getting married. He finally realizes he should have been kicked out of the nest at 19.

The oldest sister, Esther Crampton (Maureen O'Sullivan), level-headed and serene, lives up the street. She shrugs off her sisters' petty comments like "I'm the prettiest" or "I'm the youngest" and sets about helping her sisters solve their major problems.

She has to contend with her professor husband David, (Russell Nype) (in real life a failure) who forbids her to see her sisters because he thinks they are stupid. When he catches her visiting, he forces her to move to the second floor.

'Morning's at Seven' is a rare tragic-comedy which will have you chuckling even after you leave the theatre and think about it.

Young actors and actresses should see this play just to see these professionals use their bodies, their eyes, their heads and their silences to get the most out of their lines.

Maureen O'Sullivan is the older sister whose husband thinks her sisters are stupid.

Teresa Wright is the suspicious sister who thinks the spinster sister who lives with her is having an affair with her husband of 30 years.

Legendary music

Okeh Records was a few years old when it released its first Blues recording of a black singer in 1920. The label proceeded to collect a vast "race" catalogue over the next decade and half, when it was bought by CBS in the late 1930's.

Although Okeh remained relatively quiet in the 1940's, the label picked up activity in the 1950's, releasing early rock & roll songs and received a further boost as a Chicago-based soul outfit in the 1960's.

The resulting innovations caused Okeh to become one of the most historic labels in the annals of the record industry. The label was active for a full 50 years, and still remains one of the few companies ever to record all the sounds of the day—Western Swing, Blues, Jazz, R&B and Soul.

This anthology of records treats all of the musical categories listed above, interlocking five very different musical genres which reflect the development of American music. Each Okeh volume contains 24 to 29 selections recorded between 1927 and 1967.

Culled from the CBS Records archives, many of these songs are being released for the first time, and include music from Okeh's sister labels Columbia and Vocalion as well. Devotees will appreciate the fact that all monaural recordings have been left intact as well as the extensive liner notes and discographical information found on all five albums.

Little Richard

Big Maybelle

Quincy Jones and the Treiers

Chuck Willis

Macklin and Mickens in concert Sunday

A concert of Art Song will be presented by Marie Macklin, alto and Hayward Mickens, pianist, at Memorial Episcopal Church (Lafayette and Bolton Sts. in Bolton Hill) on Sunday, March 28 at 3 p.m.

The program includes works by Bah, Beethoven, Sibelius, Faure and Chausson. The concert is free and open to the public.

Marie Macklin, alto, has studied at the Peabody Prep. and Conservatory with Flora Wend, Shirley Matthews, George Walker and Seraphina Digiacomo as well as with Walter Hautzig at Hartford University.

In 1980 she was invited to give demonstrations in French Vocal Literature at the University of Texas Master Class by Elizabeth Mannion. Ms. Macklin has soloed with the UMBC Orchestra, the Columbia Pro Cantare and the Aspen Music Festival Chamber Choir under Flora Cantine and Jan Harrington. She has also given numerous solo recitals and benefit concerts for Peabody Prep. and Conservatory.

Hayward Mickens is currently a graduate student of piano at the Peabody Conservatory studying with Ellen Mack. He has collaborated with a variety of musicians and singers including violinist Berl Senofsky at the Baltimore Arts Festival in 1979.

Mr. Mickens is a 1980 winner of the National Music Council Competition, S.E. Div., recipient of a Rockefeller Foundation Scholarship, the Alexander Sklarewski scholarship in piano, the Clara Ascherfeld scholarship in accompanying, and is a three time winner of the New Jersey Music Education Council Awards.

He has given numerous solo recitals and has performed with the Maryland Ballet Co. and in Boston with the Civic Symphony and at the Isabella Gardner Museum. Last year Mr. Mickens was a participant in the National Black Music Colloquium and Competition.

Marie Macklin, above, in concert with Howard Mickens at Memorial Episcopal Church.

Jazz with George Ross

Jazz artist George Ross will present a concert that will display a wide contrast of standard and contemporary jazz styles.

On March 28 at 8:15 p.m. in the Tawes Recital Hall, University of Maryland, College Park.

George Ross has composed several new compositions that will feature virtuoso faculty members Ron Barnett, Bob Gibson, Stewart Gordon, Emerson Head, William Montgomery and the Maryland Flute Choir, George Ross, and George Shirley. Outstanding jazz artists, John Colaianni and Bertell Knox will be highlighted.

Morgan presents 'No Exit'

"Hell is other people". Come see for yourself. The Ira Aldridge Players of Morgan State University proudly presents "No Exit", one-act philosophical melodrama by Jean-Paul Sartre. "No Exit" will open at Morgan's Little Theatre, Carl Murphy Fine Arts building, on Thursday, April 15 at 8 p.m.

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"No Exit" is about three recently dead strangers, all of whom contribute to the others eternal torture. The setting is represented as a Second Empire drawing room.

"No Exit", will be presented under the direction of Robin Eve Boone as her final theatre requirement prior to graduation. The actors and actresses in this production are also students.

BOB MATTHEWS

Night Scene Seen

Was out on the night scene not too long ago, and was suddenly struck with hunger pangs, and didn't really know the best way to assuage them.

But, being the barbecued-ribs buff we are, it was easy to start the yearly comparison of ribs available in this area. The winner and still champion is Bill Dotson's out on Furnace Branch Rd. in Glen Burnie.

Since last year, they have opened a new carryout place across the road from their former location, however all of the cooking is still done at the screened-in structure.

Checked with the operators yesterday, and was told that they are open from 10:30 a.m. till around 11 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, and close at 8 p.m. on Sunday nights.

Number two in the rankings this year, is the operation of Clyde and Sharon, who dish up ribs each weekend at the Sportsmen's Lounge.

Preparation is a little slow in coming, but the wait is worthwhile, for the ribs are especially tasty. That's a pretty good sauce available to go on them too.

Although we like the sauce available on the ribs at Queenstown, they have a taste a little like that which is acquired by parboiling first.

Checked out the Leon's Pig Pen ribs once again, and although they are creditable, they don't quite qualify in our sweepstakes since they are not cooked over coals.

Went by Pee-Wee's who is still in business at Fulton and Baker and must say, he still produces the best minced barbecue around.

Must confess we did not visit the Matthews (no relation) place out on Dorsey Rd this time around, but Spring is now upon us, and we will be searching the world for that perfect barbecue.

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Speaking of barbecue, one of the up and coming spots to be on the night scene is the Soul Shack in Lexington Mkt., which also carries ribs.

They have been featuring live entertainment for a few weeks now, and things are really picking up. Things start off on Thursday nights, when Carlos Johnson and his group take over.

On the weekend, there will be John Lamkin and his group, along with vocalist Eartha. Best of all, there is no cover charge, and you can listen to the music while getting a snack in the process.

Other happenings on the Night Scene for this weekend, include: The Original Hoolers at the Left Bank Jazz Society set this Sunday. This a tribute to dancer Baby Laurence, and will be one of those "down" sessions.

The Johnny Polite Trio will provide the musical backing, Charles Covington, piano and Larry Kingling, bass. The dancers are Lon Chaney, Ralph Brown, Bernard Manners and Jimmy Slyde.

Jimmy has appeared at a LBJS session once before. He is famous for his sliding technique while dancing, and we always feel he is going to slide off the stage—but he never does.

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Michael Lee and Co. are at the Sportsmen's Lounge Fri. and Sat. nights, with Bob Butta heading up the Saturday afternoon jazz jam.

Gatsby's has Terry Hollinger upstairs in the Billie Holliday Room, and over at The Closet, it is Arnold Sterling, along with Billy Murphy on drums, Tim Murphy, piano, and Larry Kingling, bass.

Ran into Arnold the other night, and he was telling me about his experiences on the road with the organ group he has been playing with.

He's hot to blow for the hometown folks, and really plans to make this Closet set one to remember. We'll have to check it all out.

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