Religion In Modern Life

Women ministers at Bethel A.M.E. Church unite for a cause

Photo by Cheryll White

Dr. Phyllis Newton of the Provident Hospital Psychology Center acknowledges her thanks and appreciation to Bethel AME's Department of Women Ministers at Womanart '83 held recently at the Convention Center. The center was given a large sum of money by the women ministers.

By Eddie King
AFRO Staff Writer

Two years ago, Rev. Cecilia Bryant, wel - known religious and community activist, initiated the development of Bethel A.M.E. Church's Department of Women Ministries.

It is an organization intended to accent the positiveness of women in the ministry.

Two years later, the organization has become instrumental in shaping various programs, seminars, and lectures, designed for women and most recently sponsored the spectacular Womanart '83 on Saturday at the Convention Center.

Womanart '83 was a celebrated tribute to the talents of black women.

"The whole intention of Womanart '83," said Francina Bean - Waters, Baltimore organizer for the event, "was to present the black woman as an artist, to demonstrate the black woman's versatility.

As over 600 people piled into the Convention Center for the occasion, they were challenged to a fuurthering of their education about the black woman.

Multi-talented Maya Angelou very eloquently convinced the crowd that black women had a sense of togetherness that allowed them to be bold in their demand for perfection and development.

After Miss Angelou had spoken, Terri Quaye had played percussions, Junetta Jones had sung, Claire Nelson had talked, Carolyn Mulligan had greeted, Portia Bailey and Eva Mae Cambell had chatted, the program was over, and the women ministers of Bethel had once again educated an audience.

FIRST LADY NANCY REAGAN SHAKES HANDS WITH A New Shiloh Baptist Church member Wednesday at New Shiloh during a rehearsal for the TV program "In Performance at the White House" to be broadcast December 14 on PBS.

Methodists will meet

United Methodists, 9.5 million of them in this country and another half million in other lands, will turn their attention to this historic city in May as 1,000 of their elected representatives gather for the denomination's top legislative assembly. More of them than ever before will be women, particularly clergywomen, and a few more will be ethnic minority persons

The General Conference of the church meets every four years to create and revise official policy and to address social concerns. The Baltimore event will take on additional importance since it was here that American Methodism formally began with the first "Christmas Conference" at Lovely Lane Chapel in 1784. The Bicentennial celebration will be the central feature of the 10-day meeting.

John Wesley, an Anglican priest, started the Methodist movement in England but never intended to create a new denomination. However, Methodism, with its circuit riders and lay preachers, adapted quickly to the American frontier and the Methodist Episcopal Church was formed.

The first conference in Baltimore was attended by 81 clergymen representing a constituency of about 15,000. Today the 9.5 million-member denomination has 40,000 clergy, at least 1,000 of whom are women. General Conference membership is no longer limited to clergy or to men. The 1984 conference will have the highest number of clergy women and ethnic minority delegates in history.

United Methodism is the second largest Protestant denomination in the United States, after the Southern Baptists.

As they reflect on the past 200 years and consider the future, delegates to the 1984 conference will be struck by their successes and failures in race relations. The issue of slavery plagued the church during its early years. In the early 1800s the church began to lose members, primarily among blacks.

The first black group to spring formally from early Methodism was the African Methodist Episcopal Church in 1816. This development began as early as 1787 with the Free African Society led by Richard Allen in Philadelphia. In 1794 blacks began to worship apart from white members.

The first major division in American Methodism came about in 1830 when the Methodist Protestant Church was organized following controversies over slavery, democracy in the church, and lay representation in governance.

In 1820, another black movement severed its relationship and the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church was founded in New York City.

During the years from 1820 to 1844, the Methodist Episcopal Church was torn by controversy over slavery. As one result, a white group split off and became the Wesleyan Methodist Church in 1843.

The slavery issue continued to trouble Methodism and in 1844 the church suffered a major division, reflecting the larger division in society. In addition to the Methodist Episcopal Church, the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, was created.

Black membership in the southern church dwindled quickly. At the 1866 conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, a resolution was adopted "allowing" blacks to establish a separate ministry. In 1870 the Colored (later Christian) Methodist Episcopal Church came into existence.

Today the United Methodist Church has more black bishops, district superintendents and other appointed and elected leaders than ever in history but the church continues to struggle with racial inclusiveness at all levels. A major debate at the 1984 conference will be whether or not to continue a church-wide "missional priority" on the ethnic minority local church.

The church has large numbers of black, Asian, Hispanic and Native American members. It is as diverse theologically as it is racially. This diversity shows up at the General Conference sessions since the delegation includes persons affiliated with Good News, the evangelical caucus on the right, and the Methodist Federation for Social Action, a liberal group on the left. Neither group is officially related to the church but both provide the poles for theological tension.

Homosexuality will be a major issue before the 1984 conference. Good News is pushing for language which will specifically prohibit homosexuals from becoming ordained or elected to leadership positions in the church while MFSA is asking that language condemning homosexuality as "incompatible with Christian teaching" be deleted from The Book of Discipline.

Much of the legislation voted by the conference will become "law" for the church but resolutions are not binding on members. For example, the church supports the legal option of abortion under proper medical procedures, opposes gambling, and affirms "our long-standing support of abstinence from alcohol as a faithful witness to God's liberating and redeeming love for persons."

Petitions from individuals and groups are already pouring in. These will range, as usual, from issues concerning nuclear war and the environment to whether or not churches should be able to use wine instead of grape juice at communion services.

Four area ministers honored at local breakfast

Four area ministers were honored Friday morning for their spiritual, civic and social guidance throughout the year at a Thanksgiving breakfast sponsored by the Baltimore Committee of Friends at the Forum.

Father Maurice Blackwell of St. Edwards Roman Catholic Church, Bishop Winfield Showell of First Apostolic Faith Church, Rev. Douglas Miles of Brown Memorial Baptist Church and Rev. Dr. John Bryant of Bethel A.M.E. Church each received hand carved crosses at the affair.

Little Cedric and the Hailey Singers provided the entertainment for the approximately 200 guests gathered at the occasion. Rev. P. M. Smith, pastor of Huber Memorial delivered an inspiring message.

Each of the ministers honored has been in some way instrumental in the community and has provided appropriate leadership to his church community and city.

Rev. Dr. John Bryant can be found quite often in the midst of demonstrations, rallies and speakouts that concern various groups of people. He has been an eloquent speaker against government activities in South Africa.

He has been instrumental in developing Bethel A.M.E. into an internationally known church, respected by the masses. Under his leadership in the church have risen several help programs such as oil and food co-ops as well as an outreach center.

Pastoring Brown Memorial Baptist Church for nearly 10 years Rev. Douglas Miles has brought about some interesting changes in the church. He has assisted in the development of daily soup kitchens, church tutorial programs, food and clothing co-ops as well as local community projects.

Rev. Miles is the 2nd vice president of the Interdenominational Ministers Alliance and is an executive on the board of Baltimoreans United In Leadership Development (BUILD). He also is the co-chairman of Morgan's Legal Defense Fund.

Very concerned about the development of youth, Father Maurice Blackwell, pastor of St. Edwards Roman Catholic Church, has initiated several youth programs at St. Edwards where he has been pastoring for the last four years.

A community activist, he is a part of the Alliance of Rosemont Community Organization as well as the Prospect-Dukeland Improvement Association. St. Edwards has also begun various food co-op programs and clothing assistance.

Bishop Winfield Showell, pastor of First Apostolic, has been at the church for over 38 years and has initiated most of the programs and services presently rendered.

AFRO Photo by Paul Greene

"LOOK WHAT WE'VE GOT," is the expression on the faces of Dr. John Bryant, pastor of Bethel AME, and Rev. Douglas I. Miles, pastor of Brown Memorial Baptist Church, as they look at hand-carved crosses given them at Thanksgiving Breakfast held last Friday at The Forum.

Metro church briefs

Calvary Baptist Church

The Voices of Ezra Baptist Church will be in concert at Calvary Baptist Church on Fri., Dec. 2 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets for the occasion are $5. The choir will perform an all-"Clinton Utter Bach Music Concert." The church is located at 3911 Garrison Blvd. Rev. Lorenzo Graves is the pastor.

Grace A.M.E. Church

Grace African Methodist Episcopal Church's Improvement Organization will be sponsoring its Third Annual Christmas Bazaar and Dinner on Sat., Dec. 3 at the church, 67 Winters Lane in Catonsville, from 11-4 p.m. Rev. Reginald Boston is the pastor.

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

A mini-flea market consisting of clothing, handmade articles, etc. will be held on Dec. 3 at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 6615 Loch Raven Blvd. from 10-4 p.m.

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church

The men of Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, Grindon and Mainfield Aves., will be holding their Annual Beef Supper on Dec. 3 at the church from 3-7 p.m.

Christ United Methodist Church

The United Methodist Women of Christ United Methodist Church are having a prayer breakfast on Dec. 3 at 9:30 a.m. The church is located at Washington and East Chase Sts. For further information, call 342-7592.

Enon Baptist Church

The Elizabeth Bourne Christmas Bazaar and a Variety Dinner will be given by the Open Door Circle of Enon Baptist Church, Edmondson Ave. and Schroeder St. on Dec. 3 from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. Rev. Phillips, Jr. is the pastor.

Sharp Street United Methodist Church

The Baltimore Chapel Choir with Morris C. Queen as director will be performing Handel's "Messiah" at Sharp Street Memorial United Methodist Church, Dolphin and Etting Sts. on Dec. 4 at 5 p.m. For further information call 523-6433. Rev. John Coleman is the pastor.

Miracle Deliverance Center

It's the sixth gospel anniversary of Doris Neal on Dec. 4 at the Miracle Deliverance Center, 3108 Ellamont St. at 3:30 p.m.

Dunbar Performing Arts Center

Dunbar Performing Arts Center on Dec. 4 will be sponsoring the Messiah Sing-in at 3 p.m. The Hopkins Symphony Orchestra will be the accompanying group. Admission is free. For further information, call 276-4646.

Morgan Christian Center

The Morgan Christian Center is featuring its Fifth Annual Christmas Candlelight Service—a festival of scripture lessons and carols on Dec. 4 at 7 p.m. in the Christian Center Chapel. The Men's Choir of Douglas Memorial Community Church will provide the music.

New Psalmist Baptist Church

"Singles On A Christian Walk" is the theme for a Single's Fellowship to be held at New Psalmist Baptist Church, Franklin and Cathedral Sts., on Dec. 9 at 7 p.m. Rev. Walter Thomas is the pastor.

If You Ask Me

By Bettye Moss

Hats off!

He is a compositor employed at this newspaper. We have observed him at work, quietly and efficiently performing his tasks, and taking time to inspect the instructions, and to place copy in ads and stories in a professional manner.

So often, people do not notice or praise those they see on a regular basis. We're happy young Mr. Bolling's supervisors, Rudolph Antoine and Vice President-Production Frederick Howard, agree with the observations made here.

Hats off to Mitchell Bolling!

In this section of the column we single out people who do well. We endeavor to prove that people will take time to praise others when they do well.

Send us your Hats Off nomination. Please include your phone number.

— —

More on Mitch: He is a graduate of Carver High and worked in the school print shop before joining the AFRO staff in 1973. He and his wife, Sharon, an accountant with an insurance firm, live in the Glen Burnie area. Their children are Mitchell Jr., 7 and Tenisha, 3.

Mr. Bolling's mother is Mrs. Ethel Sumpter of southwest Baltimore, where he grew up. She sings on the choir at St. James Alpha and Omega Church.

HATS OFF to Mitchell Bolling Sr. Read why in If You Ask Me.

Donna Renee Jackson of Edmondson.

They are freshmen at Coppin State College, University of Maryland at Catonsville, and Salisbury State College respectively.

College scholarship aid is just one of the ways the Baltimore Chapter of the Continental Societies help young people in our area.

Benefit set

The club's December 29th affair will also raise funds for contributions for Blue Chip In, Children's Shoe Fund, Camp Farthest Out camperships, Camp Glyndon for Diabetic Children scholarships, AFRO Charities, Maryland Educational Opportunity Center, Kidney Foundation research, and House of Ruth during the coming year.

This affair again promises to be a high point of the Yule social season . . . a sit-down dinner, a silent auction, a mini concert featuring Brenda Alford, and dancing to the music of Bobby Felder.

— —

Cuff Note: Nice thing about Continental affairs — not only do they attract all age groups, you'll see friends you haven't seen for years!!

Katherine Gross is chairperson for this year's fundraiser and Zelma Brown is co-chair. Sue Jones is club president, (Dr. Sue Jones, that is. She has earned her doctorate at Temple University. Congrats to her!)

MLK event

It's that time of the year again — to make your reservations, that is — for the annual Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Breakfast.

This year's — the ninth annual — will likely be a sellout as usual. It's Friday, Jan. 13, 1984, 7:30 a.m., at the Hyatt Regency.

Distinguished speaker: Dr. Lawrence Reddick, Dillard U. prof and former prof at Coppin State College here in Baltimore.

The glorious Baltimore Community College Choir will sing under the direction of Dr. Hugh Carey.

Co-sponsors of the event: The Greater Baltimore YMCA and the King's Landing Women's Service Club.

Tickets are $10 per. Tables of ten are available for $100. For ticket info, call the Y-235-9622.

FACES IN THE CROWD of guests who gathered at Coppin State College recently to salute newlywed Coppin State College president, Dr. Calvin Burnett and his bride, the former Dr. Greta G. Henry, are from left, Mrs. Cardrienne Griffin and Carl Adair, members of the Coppin Foundation which hosted the reception; and guests, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Umphrey and Mr. and Mrs. Hanson Caldwell.

NEW DIRECTOR of Continuing Education for the Maryland State Board For Community Colleges is 39-year-old Dr. Hercules Pinkney Jr. He has headquarters in Annapolis, is responsible for all state level functions related to non-credit continuing education courses in the state's 17 community colleges which have enrollment of over 160,000 students annually.

"Special"

When grandchildren come to visit at Thanksgiving, there does come a period when parents find other activities and grandparents set the joy of having them to themselves.

It happened for us day after Thanksgiving. Three-year-old Shannon from Portsmouth, and two-year-old Carl from Atlanta here to enliven our holiday.

We started out explaining to them about the subway and promising to take them on a train ride. On the way, we spelled s-u-b-w-a-y a hundred times or more so that by the time we arrived at the Mondawmin station they could spell it, too.

We rode the sub all the way to Charles Center (so "Pop Pop" could see what it was like down near Community College), then stayed on for the return trip and got off at Lexington Market.

It was packed; but we had a chance to look at the live white turkeys on display, to order hot dogs, and to find a seat on the market's new mezzanine where we watched the crowd below.

There was more: We boarded the subway and went hunting for popcorn. We found it in Reisterstown and did the best we could, giving them napkins and worrying whether the grease from their hands would get on the car seat. (It did and we wiped it off later!

King, queen

If you haven't had the care of two lively two and three-year-olds, do accept the responsibility if it is offered. You get an entirely new perspective on life, and you get treated like king and queen, too.

We didn't know that people generally look upon grandparents with toddlers in tow as somebody special.

Everywhere we traveled, people were quick to offer us a seat, to ask the children's ages, and to say, "we know you're enjoying your grandchildren!"

We learned something new — two-year-old grandson did the current craze — "break dancing," like a veteran. We put on a Lionel Richie record and he really "broke." (Never heard of it before)

Three-year-old granddaughter, whose parents are ministers, watched in amazement, but within minutes she was into the "break" too.

Cuff note: Three-year-old arrived with a funny looking doll in her arms. We learned later it was one of those cabbage patch dolls . . . . . which are all the craze this Christmas.

They look so funny, it is hard to believe that grownups are acting crazy at department stores all over the country just to get their hands on them.

You learn something new everyday!!!

SUNNY WEATHER has many Baltimoreans out. AFRO camera found this mother and her 15-month-old twins on a downtown street last week. She is Mrs. Brenda M. Allen, a dance/history instructor at UMBC (University of Maryland, Baltimore County). Children are named Morgan and Camille. Dad is Douglas Allen, who is employed at the Aquarium.

FOR CLERGY ONLY
COMPUTERIZED
- Church Offering Reports
- Church Budget Reports
- Church Bookkeeping
- Church Membership Lists
- Church Contribution Reports for IRS
- Church Mailing List

ADCOMPS
7900 Liberty Rd. Baltimore, Md. 21207
922-2872
SPECIAL RATE FOR DECEMBER ONLY!

— AREA OBITUARIES —

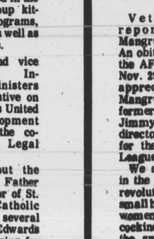
A colleague remembers Herb Mangrum

Veteran AFRO reporter Herbert Mangrum died recently. An obituary appeared in the AFRO edition dated Nov. 29. To follow is an appreciation of Mr. Mangrum written by his former AFRO colleague, Jimmy Williams, now director of public affairs for the National Urban League.

We came to maturity in the midst of a racial revolution. We were a small handful of men and women, but with the cockiness of youth, and the sweet smell of adventure in our nostrils, we thought that we could help change this world of ours.

Herbert Mangrum was one of us. We were the journalists who made up the AFRO's City Desk in the 50s and through part of the 60s. We were bound together in a friendship that lasted long after we left the AFRO, long after we turned to other careers. It was a friendship built on trust and nurtured by the experiences that we shared, and by the pressures that we endured as we sought out the truth.

It took a massive amount of committment to be a black journalist in those days. There really were not all that many of us, and we all knew that we would never get rich. But that really didn't matter, the fun was in doing what you had always wanted to do—be a journalist.



HERBERT MANGRUM

Mangrum came up from Texas to join the AFRO. We both started work on the same day. Mangrum had a broad Texas drawl that he never lost. He was totally without guile. What you saw was what you got. And what Dr. Carl Murphy got for his money was one hell of a reporter.

Mangrum was methodical and believed in getting all his facts straight before he put the first word on paper. Sometimes, under the stress of a fast approaching deadline, he would drive me up the wall as I frantically screamed for him to finish the story. But when it came, it was totally right and up to the high standards of the paper.

Mangrum had many moments of glory at the AFRO, but none matched his portrayal of an African diplomat in what came to be known as the Route 40 Caper. A group of AFRO reporters dressed up in the appropriate clothing as African diplomats and sought service at a number of white only restaurants along Route 40.

We made a big splash with that story and we helped to show just how dumb segregation really is. Places that wouldn't serve native blacks served the phony Africans.

Mangrum left the AFRO and spent some 30 years in government before he retired. Throughout all that time his love for the AFRO and for being a journalist never went out of his heart. Like so many of us, Herb got his start at the AFRO and he never forgot it.

The AFRO gave us all something special. It taught us respect for integrity, a love of the truth, the ability to keep an open mind and a thirst for excellence.

St. James Episcopal Church
Arlington and Lafayette Aves.
(Lafayette Square)
The Reverend Donald O. Wilson, Rector
Dr. Robert T. Ford, Deacon
Maurice Murphy, organist — Choirmaster
8:00 A.M. — Holy Communion
9:00 A.M. — Church School-Family Service
11:00 A.M. — Holy Eucharist
The Public Is Cordially Invited To Attend All Services

VERNON R. BAILEY

Respected for dependability, integrity, and quality service since 1921.
Bailey Funeral Home
Successor to George G. Kelson
1348 N. Calhoun St.
Baltimore, Maryland 21217
669-7585

DOUGLAS MEMORIAL COMMUNITY CHURCH
"The People of the Way"
Lafayette and Madison Aves.
Dr. Martin Curtis Bascom, Minister
James S. Hammond, St. Mus.
Juanita Hall Davis
Organist

Sunday
December 4, 1983

Marion Curtis Bascom
preaching

8:00
Now Let Every Tongue Adore Thee
—J. S. Bach

11:00
Listen to the Lambs
—R. Nathaniel Dett

Unruly crowd sees Murphy

WASHINGTON (UPI) — A crowd of 1,000 people gathered at a Georgetown record store Tuesday for comedian Eddie Murphy's autograph, but became disorderly and pushed a police officer through a window, authorities said.

Two people were arrested when they refused to clear the way for an ambulance going to the assistance of the injured officer.

"Over 1,000 people turned out at about 4 p.m.," Ms. Bryant said. "The crowd became disorderly, and ... Officer Sylvester Garvin was pushed through the window of the store."

Murphy, who appeared at the Kemp Mill records store for an autograph party, "escaped unscathed out the back door," Ms. Bryant said. Garvin, 27, was taken to George Washington University hospital in fair condition.

She said the two people who were arrested were charged with disorderly conduct.

Democrats seek more women

The Democratic Central Committee of Baltimore County is currently seeking women applicants to serve as at-large members to the Democratic Central Committee of Maryland for the remaining 1983-86 term.

In order for the Democratic Central Committee of Maryland to play a role in the 1984 Presidential Convention delegate selection process, it must adhere to the rules of the Democratic National Committee which require the Democratic Central Committee of Maryland to be equally divided between males and females.

For Baltimore County, this means the nominees must be women who are registered Democrats residing in Baltimore County.

Interested individuals can send their names to: Democratic Central Committee of Baltimore County, P.O. Box 3263, Phoenix, MD 21131 or contact a member of their local Central Committee. Deadline is December 20th.

Each legislative district Central Committee will then sponsor a public meeting to select the additional members.

CHURCH BUILDERS
We Specialize In Building Low Cost Churches. We have financing available and a plan that can assist you with monthly payments. For more details: Call 523-1141 or 922-9340 Licensed Contractors — ABRAMS CO.

Quality Home Heating Oil
88 Cents
A Gallon
FOR 100 GALLONS OR MORE
CATHOLIC CHARITIES OIL
Warm Winters For Fixed Budget Families
320 Cathedral Street — Baltimore, Maryland 21201 (301) 547-5535
Catholic Charities Oil is a Unit of Associated Catholic Charities
Limited Time Only
Make Catholic Charities Oil Your Maryland Energy Assistance Program Supplier
547-5535
CALL TODAY