HIS 30TH ANNIVERSARY

St. Paul's Dr. Crawley receives Congressional state and city honors

By Elizabeth M. Oliver

The banquet celebrating the 74th anniversary of St. Paul Baptist Church and the 30th year of its pastor, the Rev. Dr. George A. Crawley Jr., was a stellar event with every branch of government bringing salutes. In addition, the congregation and the community extended congratulations and brought gifts as the affair lasted far into the night.

Dr. Crawley succeeded his father at the death of the noted Dr. George A. Crawley Sr. who was pastor of the church which will long be remembered for its leadership in the civil rights movement. As Dr. Crawley reminded the capacity crowd, he, Dr. I. Logan Kearse and members of the St. Paul congregation were first to go to jail in the struggle for human dignity and first class citizenship in Baltimore.

Along with the AFRO and many clergymen, the NAACP and ministerial groups, St. Paul Baptist is credited with helping open places of public accommodation and housing in the late 50's and 60's.

St. Paul has also a longstanding reputation for service in the East Baltimore community as well as statewide and citywide leadership. The church was founded in 1910. The present site at 3101 The Alameda was granted $100,000 loan from Advance Federal in 1969 and the mortgage burned in 1982. A gift the pastor gave to the church were the historic photographs of the signing and the burning ceremonies.

Among gifts, plaques, citations and honors given Dr. Crawley and left in his custody for the church were the Governor's Citation and the Maryland House of Delegates by Del. Clarence Davis; Maryland Senate, Senator Troy Brailey; Mayor Schaefer, Roscoe Herring; State's Attorney Kurt Schmoke. Also, Congressman Parren J. Mitchell, City Councilman Nathaniel McFadden, United Baptist Missionary Convention, Mrs. Bessie Mason and some 20 church organizations.

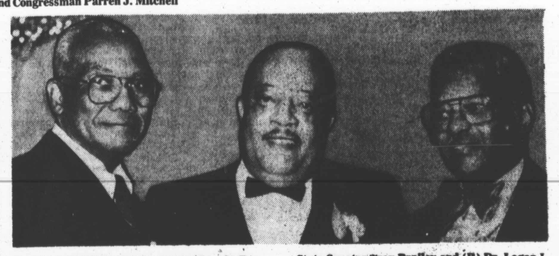
Also lauded were Dr. Crawley's nephew, Rev. Benjamin C. Jones, the general chairman of the anniversary events and his sister, Mrs. Elizabeth Crawley Jones, who joined the assistant chairlady, Ms. Beatrice D. Emge in arranging the banquet. Mrs. Jones introduced the guest speaker, Dr. Spencer L. Scott of Portsmouth, VA, a classmate of Dr. Crawley's when they earned their Ph.D. degrees.

A famed public speaker and minister, Dr. Scott revealed the problems a pastor faces in that he is expected to be a super man "although he has his limitations as well as other human beings." Dr. Crawley's daughter gave the family salute in a solo.

Dr. I. Logan Kearse served as toastmaster. Others on the program were Rev. Chanie Barnes, Rev. Walter Paige, Rev. K. C. Wilks, Mesdames Rebecca Kearney, Lois Brooks, Enolia McMillan, Nannie Jones, Mildred Edwards, Beatrice Enge, Alice Woodland, Master Walter R. Hurt, Jr., a great-nephew of the honoree; Robert Briscoe, Deacon Board co-chairman and Charles Barner, Trustee chairman.

Music was by the St. Paul Mass Choir of 50 voices and soloists Julian Knox, Wanda Nesmith, Lolita Rennick, Julia Mae Price Williams, and Mistress of Ceremonies Irma Johnson. The 10-page program book embossed in red and white reflected the banquet colors which were carried out in fresh floral designs at the double head table and corsages for each guest.

DR. AND MRS. GEORGE A. CRAWLEY (left and center), the guests of honor at his 30th anniversary celebration as pastor of St. Paul Baptist Church, are joined by Maryland Congressman Parren J. Mitchell and (R) State's Attorney Kurt Schmoke who was termed "The Next Mayor of Baltimore."



GUEST SPEAKER FROM VIRGINIA (C) Rev. Dr. Spencer L. Scott of Norfolk and other guests, State Senator Troy Brailey and (R) Dr. Logan I. Kearse, toastmaster at the banquet.

ALL IN THE FAMILY — The Crawleys include Mrs. Elizabeth N. Jones, sister of the honoree; Rev. Benjamin Jones, her son who was general chairman for the church's 74th anniversary; Mrs. Cora Crawley, wife and Dr. George A. Crawley, pastor of St. Paul Baptist 30 years; Little Miss Allyse L. Hawley, Mrs. Georgine Hawley, daughter and husband, John Hawley.

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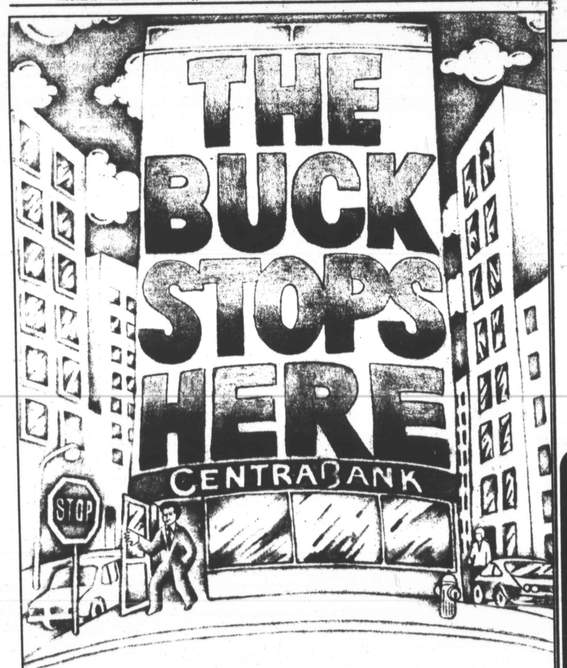

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IT'S A GOOD TIME FOR THE GREAT TASTE

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Apartment life for senior citizens: a highrise delight

By Valerie Smith-Madden
AFRO Staff Writer

Baltimore City offers a variety of residential options for the elderly. Retirement homes, boarding houses, homesharing, residing in private homes, foster care and lifetime care retirement communities are among the choices available. Most associated with independent elderly living is the senior citizen apartment building.

For those seniors interested in apartments, there are privately owned complexes such as Basilica Place, owned by Associated Catholic Charities, and Pennsylvania Avenue Zion Church's Zion Towers. For those unable to meet the often higher rents that private complexes charge, there is public housing. McCulloch Home Highrise and Lakeview Towers are two examples.

For those opting for apartment life, Mrs. Dolores Purzitsky, an information and referral counselor for the Information and Referral Project Gateway I Program suggests that interested parties investigate complexes that interest them.

She advises that interested parties call and ask about income and asset requirements. "They vary from place to place," said Purzitsky. She adds that parties should find out if the rent includes utilities. In complexes such as Basilica Place, tenants must pay their telephone and gas and electric bills.

She continues, many complexes have waiting lists. In some instances, you may have to wait as long as five years, so you should apply to a number of complexes.

There are complexes like Lanvale Towers in East Baltimore which have a tenant ratio of 50 percent subsidized housing and 50 percent private housing. Like many apartment complexes there is building security in the form of a guard, and in many cases, (like Lanvale Towers and St. James Terrace) it is a resident who "buzzes" in a visitor. There is always someone at the desk.

Entry into senior citizen apartment complexes is based on apartment availability, income, and age. Many complexes will accept seniors who are disabled (in a wheelchair) provided they are able to reasonably care for themselves. They can eat with other residents as many complexes offer communal meals.

Ronald Rowlette, a staff member at Lanvale Towers (he is a leasing representative of Oxford Management, the people who manage Lanvale Towers), says the people in his building have "everything they need, except a barber—and that will be coming shortly."

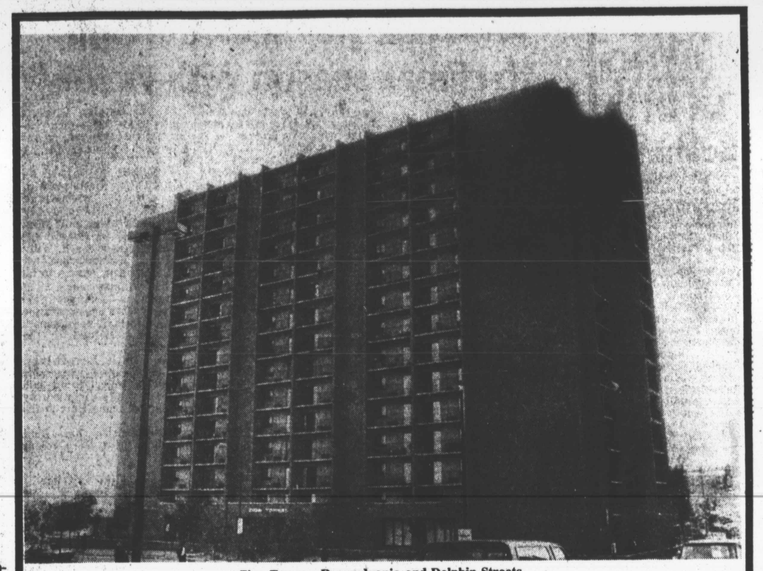
Interested parties can go to a number of places to get information on senior citizen housing. The State Office on Aging publishes a housing directory for senior citizens. It's a comprehensive listing of housing, not only in Baltimore, but in the entire state.

The directory also lists Gateway I points of contact. Gateway I is a program that provides information on services for the elderly.

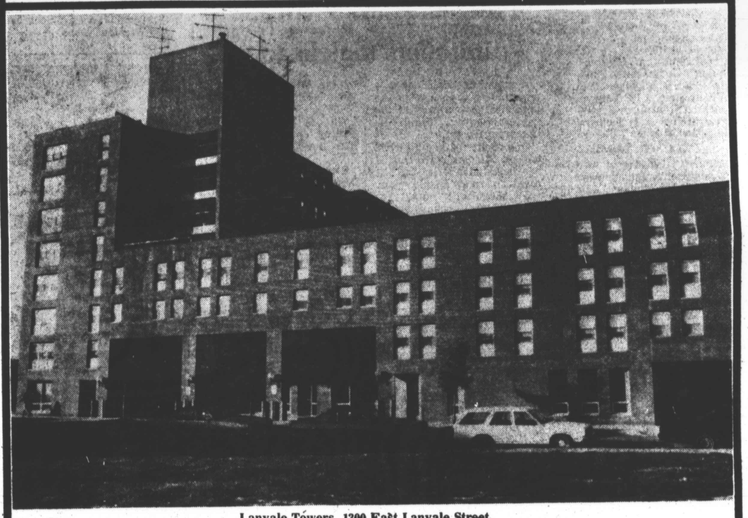
The program can help with housing, income, financial questions, health and community services and other things such as transportation and legal aid.

The Office of Aging also provides a checklist that parties may carry with them when they go to examine prospective apartments.

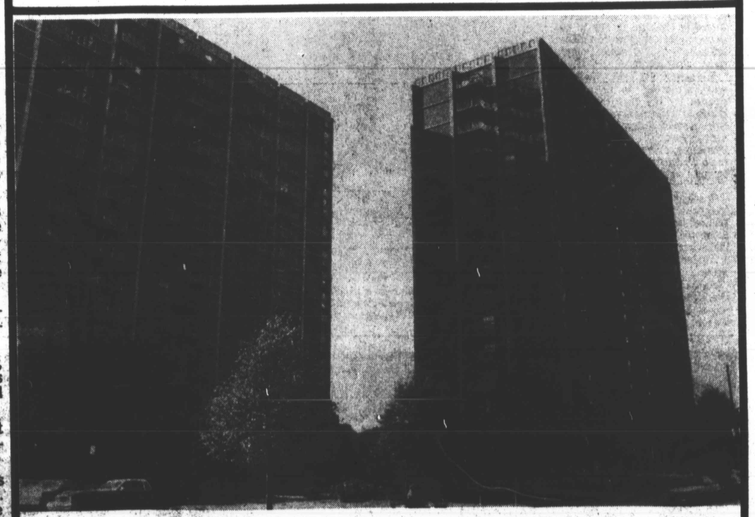
Many of the senior citizens apartment complexes are cheery places that encourage self-sufficiency. And the residents seem to be quite happy to be among their own. A resident of Basilica Place summed it up quite nicely: "I've worked all my life for something nice. This is nice, and I deserve it."



Zion Towers, Pennsylvania and Dolphin Streets.



Lanvale Towers, 1300 East Lanvale Street.



McCulloh Homes, Druid Hill and Dolphin Streets.