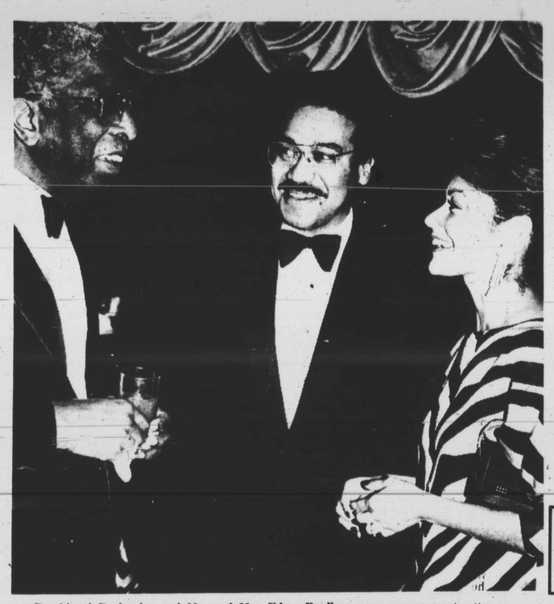
Gamma Boule of Sigma Pi Phi



Dr. Lionel Desbordes and Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Roulhac, were among guests attending Christmas Party of Gamma Boule, Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity.

Clarence Blount, Jacqueline Watts, Sam Daniels and Robert Watts.

Photos by John H. Murphy III

Judge Harry Cole, Saul Perdue, Dr. Richard I. McKinney, Grand Sire Archon; and President Earl Richardson.

Ida Nicholas chats with Boule guests.

Brooksie Crew, Clarice Watts and Rev. Donald O. Wilson

Judge and Mrs. Milton Allen, Mrs. Jacqueline Watts.

The Living Church

Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Central Maryland have formed a partnership with the Black United Methodist Preachers (B.U.M.P.) to help troubled youths. (L to R) front row: Ms. Lynn Rosenberg; Ms. Debra Shelton; Mr. Bob Lavallee; Revs. Kelly Jackson, James H. Smith, Alfreda Wiggins and Daniel McLellen; back row: Revs. Lloyd Marcus, La-Ressa Smith, Eugene Mathews, William Peters, Sr., Roscoe Williams, Dr. O. St. Clair Franklin and Mr. Raymond Cain.

Help for wayward boys

This program involves a partnership effort between the Black United Methodist Preachers (B.U.M.P.), and Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Central Maryland, Inc.

It is recognized that there is a substantial number of youth whose present behavior is harmful to themselves and others. The future of these children looks bleak. It is also recognized that the caring attention of a responsible adult will establish a relationship that can lead to positive change in the lives of these children.

The Big Brothers and Big Sisters agency provides the careful matching and supervision of the youth in the program. The church utilize their influence to encourage members of their congregation to become involved as Big Brothers and Big Sisters in a further effort to show their Christianity.

This partnership will provide improved futures for many more children. It will also provide supportive services to the adult Big Brothers/Big Sisters. It will result in an improved quality of life in the community.

Rev. Fisher appointed bishop

The Rev. Carl A. Fisher, S.S.J., pastor of St. Francis Xavier Church in East Baltimore, the nation's oldest black Catholic parish, has been appointed auxiliary bishop of the Los Angeles Archdiocese.

Rev. Fisher, a Josephiite priest, will become the 11th black Roman Catholic bishop in the United States when he assumes his new position in February.

Father Fisher was in Los Angeles and could not be reached for comment. However, the Most Rev. John Ricard, Baltimore's auxiliary bishop and one of the nation's 10 black bishops, said Rev. Fisher's elevation to bishop was "a mixed blessing" for the people of Baltimore.

Bishop Ricard said Rev. Fisher would be missed, but that Baltimore's loss was a plus for Los Angeles. "Rev. Fisher is widely known and respected for his work both in religious circles and the rest of the community," said Bishop Ricard.

Rev. Fisher was born in Pascagoula, MS and later enrolled at the Josephites Seminary in Newburgh, NY. Following his ordination in 1973, Rev. Fisher was assigned to the Church of the Incarnation in Washington, where he became vocational director for the Josephites.

After two years in Washington, he was transferred to St. Veronica's in Baltimore. And in 1982, he was named pastor of St. Francis Xavier.

In Baltimore, Father Fisher joined a local fair housing organization in a suit against the Worthington Valley Swim Club in August 1985.

The suit was filed after the club refused to rent its facilities to parishioners from St. Francis Xavier for their annual church picnic.

Allegedly, the club owner said there was concern among white members of the club that a large group of blacks would be loud and disruptive.

The $1.7 million suit was settled out of court.

In naming a black auxiliary bishop, Pope John Paul, II has added Los Angeles to the list of U.S. cities with black bishops. Besides Baltimore, these cities include Washington, New York, Newark, NJ; Cleveland, Chicago, St. Louis; Biloxi MS; New Orleans, and Detroit.

Father Fisher will assume his new duties in Los Angeles Feb. 23.

New Baptist missionary movement

RICHMOND, Va. — A missionary organization being formed by fundamentalists in the Southern Baptist Convention threatens to rival the established Foreign Mission Board, a copyright story said Sunday.

Under the leadership of Bill Darnell, executive secretary of the Genesis Commission, the organization will soon be headquartered in the Houston offices of businessman Randy Best, who has supported the group's aims, the Richmond Times-Dispatch reported.

Darnell said he expects to leave his pastorate at Kirby Woods Baptist Church in Memphis, Tenn., to go to Houston to head the group, which so far has attracted about $2 million in commitments.

Genesis Commission leaders say their work, which will be restricted to starting new churches, plans to begin work in Mexico and expand into Central and South America.

Darnell identified the commission's supporters as well-heeled and "theologically conservative."

"We're not in competition with anyone," he told the newspaper. "I don't see the formation of our organization as anything that could be detrimental to Southern Baptist life."

But Paige Patterson, a leader of the fundamentalist drive to take control of the convention and a member of the commission's board, told the newspaper that some Genesis supporters are dissatisfied with how the Richmond-based Foreign Mission Board operates.

Still, he said, "this commission has no intention to be in anything other than the beginning of new churches. The usual parameters of hospitals, schools, etc., are now on our agenda."

The Foreign Mission Board supports missionaries but also sends medical and technicgl support. The new commission is viewed as a threat to the board, which requires $165 million a year for its operations.

In that view, the commission is the latest in a series of fundamentalist-backed organizations that are operating without denominational sanction. Others include the Southern Baptist Advocates, a nationally distributed newspaper, and Mid-America Seminary, a fundamentalist school in Memphis.

"It's almost as if a shadow denomination were developing," said Keith Parks, head of the Foreign Mission Board.

"Our primary purpose is evangelism that results in churches," he said. "The only support we have comes from Southern Baptists, and if they go to the same Southern Baptists for support, I can't see it as being anything else than direct competition."

Parks said he may speak with commission members about their plans.

"I think it comes down to the question of whether we are committed to cooperative efforts inclusive of the wide range of Southern Baptist interests, or whether we want to trim back from that stream of Southern Baptist life and focus on restrictive viewpoints," he said.

Trim-Plex, a rapper from New York brought his anti-drug message to Baltimore for the Children's March Against Drugs.

Group home planned

In memory and honor of the late Rev. Jentry E. McDonald, Sr. pastor of the Morning Star Baptist Church in Catonsville, a new and unique project is about to get underway.

Officials of the Jentry E. McDonald, Sr. Group Home project are planning to open a group home for abused children.

These children must be removed immediately from their homes and placed in a proper setting. And this has caused a serious housing problem. This ongoing problem gave us the incentive and motivation to begin planning for this new residential home.

The new group home will be named "The Jentry E. McDonald, Sr. Group Home. The need for such a home is long overdue and will be a first for the City of Baltimore and the surrounding area.

We will be conducting several fundraisers to help us get underway. Set up costs are estimated at $75,000 and we are both excited and anxious to reach that desired goal.

Any suggestions or services are welcomed. Please send them to: The Jentry E. McDonald, Sr. Group Home, Inc. 2705 Mt. Holly St., Baltimore, MD 21216.

Remember, our children are our future. They deserve the very best that we can afford them. Let's not sell them short in any way.

Metro Church Briefs

Celebration of a Dream

Freedom Luncheon - Saturday, Jan. 10, 1087 - 1 p.m. Enon Baptist Church, Edmondson Avenue and Schroeder Street. Keynote Speaker, Rev. Benjamin L. Hooks, Executive Director, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. Subscription - $6.00.

Emancipation Celebration

The Ministerial Alliance of Maryland, Inc. will be holding a community-wide Emancipation Day Celebration Jan. 1, 1987 11 a.m. at the Unity Baptist Church of Elkridge (Montgomery Road, off Route One).

The guest speaker will be the Rev. Charles W. Green, pastor of the New Pilgrim Baptist Church of Washington, D.C. and the past president of the Hampton University's Minister's Conference.

Come and join in this worship celebration as we together remember what the Lord Our God has done. This day of celebration will begin with a breakfast at 9 a.m. For further information, call Rev. Cleveland Mason, chairperson, at 947-5529.

Living The Truth

Christadelphians — A Bible address on the subject, Living the Truth in a Corrupt World, Sunday, Jan. 18 at 2:30 p.m. at 2606 Gwynndale Ave. Mr. William Butts, Bible scholar and lecturer will be speaker.

For further information, please call 747-2915.

Sister Coyle Appointed

Archbishop William Donald Borders has announced the appointment of Sister Jane Coyle as Coordinator of Pastoral Ministries at Corpus Christi Parish in Baltimore City.

Sister Jane is the first religious woman to be appointed to this position in the Archdiocese of Baltimore. In her position, Sister Jane will have full administrative responsibility for running Corpus Christi parish.

Sacramental ministry in the parish, such as saying Mass and hearing confessions, will be provided by non-resident priests who serve the parish in this capacity.

Sister Jane, who had been serving as pastoral associate at Corpus Christi since 1982, had been functioning as temporary administrator of the parish since the departure of Father Frank Callahan in August 1986.

Fellowship Luncheon

Dr. Katheryn Brown of Atlanta, Ga, president of the Connectional Lay Organization of the African Methodist Episcopal church will be guest speaker at the Fellowship Luncheon on Saturday, Jan. 10, 1987 and the Bicentennial Year of Thanksgiving for the AME Church.

Dr. Brown will highlight the aims and activities of the Connectional Lay Organization and its influence on the A.M.E. church and surrounding communities.

The afternoon program will include Mrs. Rachael Cammack, soloist of Harrisburg, PA, and the St. John A.M.E. Church Cathedral Choir of Baltimore directed by Mr. Herbert Brown.

The A.M.E. Church is beginning its celebrations of its 200th birthday, 1787 to 1987, a milestone for black Methodists and black people in America.

IN FOCUS

The woman behind top man at HU

By Bonnie R. Keys

Although Celestine Williams Cheek, wife of Howard University President James E. Cheek, is often seen at ceremonial functions, many in the university community don't really get a chance to know her.

For the past 33 years, she has been the captain of the Cheek home, raising two children while hosting dignitaries, faculty, students and staff. Now, she says, the time has come for her to retire from her career at home and venture back into the community.

"I have always wanted to design clothes," she said. "When I was 11 years old I designed a dress for my 3-year-old sister." She laughs, "If he (President Cheek) had retired while we were younger, I would have made it a vocation, but now I'll probably do it for the fun of it."

Cheek, who describes herself as a "home person," says the happiest time in her life was when the children were growing up. Now, her son, James Jr., has graduated from Howard and daughter Janet is a senior majoring in chemistry.

"The decision for both Jimmy and Janet to attend Howard was their own," she stresses. From the time Janet was 11 years old, she planned to attend Howard. James Jr. attended Morehouse College, where he stayed for two years before transferring to Howard.

Appearing somewhat amused, she said, "Janet thought that she was going to be at a school separate from him, but before she could enter her freshman year, he was back at Howard."

"But," she pointed out, "it was completely their decision to attend Howard."

Contrary to what many people may think, she says, her children did not get any special privileges. "It was just the opposite. They got no favoritism, none at all. In fact, I think the teachers made it more difficult for them."

"We talked with them before they started school to warn them that they might have a harder time. I don't think they mind," she said.

About students today, "I'm quite proud of them. I think they've finally grown up. They are more serious. Before the '60s they were serious but it

was a different kind of seriousness."

"They knew that everything was cut and dried...you entered an elementary school and you knew what high school you were going to and you made a decision about going to college. Now, there are so many different decisions to make," she said.

She met her husband at Shaw University in 1951. "It just happened one day," she said. "I was sitting in the cafeteria and I'm told that he said to some of his friends, 'See that girl over there? That's the girl I'm going to marry."

"They brought him over that same day," she continued. "I was shy as usual but we spoke and said a few words." After a two-year courtship, they were married in 1953.

She taught school for eight years, moving often in the early years of their marriage while she furthered his career. In Fort Barnswell, N.C., she taught English and French. And, because it was easier to get jobs teaching elementary education, in Rochester, N.Y., she taught first grade; Elizabeth, N.J., kindergarten; and in Richmond, first grade again.

Though she opted to stay at home when the children were born, she says, "The way I did it is not always the way that people think you should do it. I gave up my career and took care of the family and my husband and the house. I am not in favor of every woman doing it. If they have a career that is important to them, then I think they should try to do both with the help of the spouse. I stress that very highly: that the husband and wife work together." "Whatever the preference," she says, "do it together," she said.

"I didn't mind giving up my career as a teacher. I knew that he would be busy and I felt that one of us should be home with the children. He's the kind of person that when he has a job, that's his life," Cheek went on.

Now that the childen are grown, she has also made a partial return to the classroom. A few years ago she became a volunteer with the District of Columbia Public School's Operation Rescue Program tutoring students at Patterson Elementary School in Anacostia. She finds teaching today very different from when she began.

"It's a totally different environment, but I enjoy it," she said.

Reminiscing about the past has made her think about her childhood. She was born in Newton Grove, N.C., into a family of 13 children. She attributes her being a tomboy-

CELESTINE WILLIAMS CHEEKs

climbing trees and playing basketball-to spending a lot of time with her brothers. She was the ninth child with a brother before and after her. However, she says, she was named "most ladylike" in high school.

Though the Williams family was large, she says, life was

not hard. "My father owned a farm and there was lots of space and lots of fun out in the country."

Always good at cooking, which she says is one of her hobbies, she remembers the years when her husband was president of Shaw University and there was no money in the budget for entertaining. She had to prepare as well as serve all meals. Her culinary skills continue to come in handy because she routinely entertains the members of the board of trustees, vice presidents, deans, directors, faculty and student leaders.

With Christmas approaching, she is plannng her annual Christmas celebration with some students and fraternities.

She has traveled quite a bit with her husband on university business-throughout the Caribbean, Mexico, Japan, Taiwan, Iran and Greece. "He has been to several countries in Africa, I've been to Egypt and Senegal." The most interesting country was Russia, she says.