National News Scene

Congress hits poor in budget action

An analysis of final fiscal year 1988 funding levels shows that programs for the poor lost ground again last year, despite initial Congressional plans not to cut these programs in the fiscal year 1988 budget and a provision in the budget summit agreement calling for their protection.

Total FY 1988 appropriations for low income non-entitlement programs fell $750 million below the amount estimated by the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) as needed to maintain FY 1987 benefit and service levels, after adjusting for inflation.

Based on CBO estimates, a total of a little more than $38.8 billion in appropriations was necessary to maintain "current service" levels for these programs. Appropriations of slightly under $38.1 billion — $750 million less — were enacted. A total of $37.6 billion was appropriated for these programs in FY 1987.

While this reduction from the levels needed to maintain FY 1987 service levels is not large in itself (it represents a cut of approximately two percent), it compounds especially deep reductions made in low income non-entitlement programs earlier in the 1980s. Appropriations for these programs totalled $62.8 billion in FY 1981, far above the current levels.* Total FY 1988 appropriations for these programs are 54 percent below total FY 1981 levels, after adjusting for inflation, making this the mostly deeply cut part of the federal budget during this decade.

In dollar terms, total FY 1988 appropriations for low income non-entitlement programs are $44.7 billion below FY 1981 levels, after adjusting for inflation (see Table 2).

In the FY 1981 through FY 1988 period, the largest reductions have come in appropriations for subsidized housing, which plunged from more than $30 billion in fiscal year 1981 to less than $8 billion in fiscal year 1988. This represents a decline of more than 80 percent, adjusting for inflation.

Many other programs have also been reduced substantially since FY 1981: appropriations levels have dropped 81 percent for the Work Incentive program, which provides job training to welfare recipients; 68 percent for other employment and training programs; 47 percent for housing assistance for the elderly and handicapped.

Dramatic need still exists

Child care services improving

By Olive Vassell
AFRO Staff Writer.

A improvement has been made in providing child care facilities for the young, but a dramatic need still exists in the country, said Secretary of Labor Ann McLaughlin, commenting on a recent report by the department's Bureau of Labor Statistics.

With more and more women going to work, the demand for child care will grow, said Mclaughlin, who also announced the appointment of a child care task force in his department to examine the issue.

About two percent, or 25,000 of the nation's establishments with 10 employees or more sponsor day-care centers for worker's children, the report said. And three-fifths of them reported work practices that aided parents in caring for their children, like flexitime and part-time work.

Large establishments were much more likely to provide childcare services or benefits than small ones. Thirty-two percent of the largest establishments (250 employees or more) questioned provided services, compared to nine percent of small ones (less than 50 employees).

And government agencies scored better than their private counterparts. Around nine percent of them supplied services, compared to less than two percent of private firms, according to the report.

Private establishment services were most often found in service industries, like retailing and transportation, while the manufacturing and construction industries, provided the least services, the survey found.

The lack of subsidized childcare is a serious problem in the District. Currently there are some 6,000 spaces available for the estimated 13,000 children, who qualify for places in care programs.

Facilities are limited because of the low wages, in this highly labor intensive field. The average annual salary of a childcare worker is $9,200 a year.

Both the District and the federal government have introduced bills to help alleviate the problem. The District's bill, the Day Care Policy Act, raises the ceiling on how much child care center and charge for their services, while the federal ABC bill, provides for some $2.5 billion being put into child care services to meet its three-pronged problem of cost, supply and quality.

The federal bill will penalize states who do not meet government requirements. Some 28 states currently spend less on child care than they did in 1981.

And the District is among 26 stated who provided care for fewer or the same number of children, catered for in 1986.

JOB PROGRAM SUCCESS — Alan Riddle, (left) training supervisor for PEPCO instructs Larry Jones, Jr. in the fundamentals of welding at the production service center in Forestville. Jones, 19, is taking part in Project Success, a job program sponsored by the city's Department of Employment Services, guaranteeing a job for District high school graduates. PEPCO was recently honored for its support of Project Scuccess with the hiring of Jones and four other graduates.

Gift shocks journalists

Black journalists got the shock of their lives last week.

They were attending the Congressional Black Caucus 20th Anniversary tribute luncheon in honor of the Rev. Martin Luther King. Some were there covering the event, others were there at the invitation of the organization.

During the award tribute to the King Federal Holiday Commission, Rep. Walter E. Fauntroy made an additional award to the King family to be turned over to them in Atlanta. The award was a plaque, a reproduction of a news story centering around the King children.

The news story was from a white daily paper despite the fact there are 119 black newspapers in the country, all of which did some sort of tribute to Martin Luther King last week.

"I was shocked and truly embarrassed," said Rep. Fauntroy afterwards. "I don't know who came up with the idea to use that particular news story but you can rest assured I will find out."

Advance FEDERAL
SAVINGS AND LOAN ASSOCIATION

Statement of Condition
As of December 31, 1987

ASSETS

First Mortgage Loans	$22,269,042
Savings Account Loans	713,687
Improvement Loans	112,255
Other Loans	121,269
Real Estate Owned	227,370
Stock in Federal Home Loan Bank	184,500
Cash on Hand and in Banks	1,086,921
Investments and Securities	8,483,390
Other Investments	172,504
Property and Equipment, At Cost	110,922
Other Assets	511,808
TOTAL ASSETS	$33,993,668

LIABILITIES AND NET WORTH

Savings Accounts	$29,321,263
Advances from Federal Home Loan Bank	NONE
Advance Payments by Borrowers	858,135
Other Liabilities	380,814
TOTAL LIABILITIES	$30,560,212
Net Worth	3,433,456
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET WORTH	$33,993,668

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233-6570

Consumers warned about new NFA NFL credit card

Football fans, looking forwad to Super Bowl XXII on Sunday, were warned today by a national consumer group that the National Football League's new credit card program is a bad deal for the nation's fans.

The NFL has teamed up with Citybank to offer a VISA card emblazoned with the helmet logo of every football team in the league except the New York Giants, who already have a card program of their own.

"The NFL card scores a touchdown for the clubs and the league," said Bankcard Holders of America (BHA) Director Elgie Hoslten, "but when it comes to the fans, Citibank and the NFL have fumbled."

The NFL card carries a 17.8 percent interest rate and $25 annual fee after the first six months. Every time a fan uses one of the NFL cards, a donation is made to NFL charities supporting in a variety of different causes.

Fans also rack up "Pro dollars" with each purchase — one pro dollar for every five dollars charged on the card — and can use these to purchase NFL merchandise at a discount.

But part of the annual fee and finance charges consumers pay for the card will go to the NFL — and the league refuses to disclose these amounts.

"The problem with most affinity group cards," says BHA Director Elgie Holstein, "is that by the time the bank and the group take their share, there's not much left to pass on to consumers in terms of favorable rates and fees. Most affinity card programs carry interest rates below the 18.3 percent national average, but still between 17 percent and 18 percent, compared with the 11 percent to 15 percent consumers could be paying," said Mr. Holstein. "The face is most consumers can get a better deal by shopping around on their own."

To help consumers find better deals, BHA today released its own newly updated 1988 "Fair Deal" list of banks issuing credit cards at the lowest rates: 15 percent and below. BHA also released its updated list of banks that issue "free" credit cards: those that charge no annual fee. Each list is $1.50 (to cover postage and handling) and is available by mail from BHA's office in Washington, D.C.)

The marketing of credit cards tied to a cause — "affinity cards" — is quickly becoming the hottest area of bank credit card marketing today, with more than one thousand programs already underway.

Labor streamlines anti-bias process

The Department of Labor has announced the issuance of two policy directives which are intended to improve the agency's ability to initiate appropriate enforcement actions.

In making the announcement Assistant Secretary of Labor for Employment Standards Fred W. Alvarez said, "affirmative action has accomplished much to broaden opportunities for many who have not had an opportunity to participate fully in the workplace and will play an even greater role in the years ahead as employers search for ways to compete effectively with changing work force demographics.

"We acknowledge the creative efforts that many federal contractors are undertaking, but we must be prepared to enforce our equal opportunity and affirmative action obligations fully in those instances where employers do not take those obligations seriously," he said.

OFCCP is issuing the two directives which will eliminate unnecessary delays in the enforcement process. The first directive will give assistant regional administrators (ARAs) additional authority to sign all conciliation agreements except those involving new issues, which will be reviewed by the national office.

The second directive will remove the requirement that ARAs personally attempt conciliation before preparing any enforcement recommendation.

Executive Order 11246, which established affirmative action requirements for federal contractors, was issued in 1965. OFCCP, within ESA, is responsible for the enforcement of the order, and the affirmative action sections of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Vietnam-era Veterans Readjustment Assistance Act.

Economic forecast

A little time for conversation

By Carrington B. Davis

In a recent passage through a local bistro, I was chanced to come across one of Washington's premiere entrepreneurs in a mood for conversation and a little complaint.

It seems as though he had been trapped by the squeeze of the forces of economics which grab even the best of us from time to time.

His name is not a household word, nor would he be recognized from pictures on the cover of Regardie's, yet he is an entrepreneur who had established a frontier business in the Georgia Avenue corridor and he was in a mood for conversation and complaint.

His major complaint was directed toward those men of the majority race in this country. Nameless, faceless people who were to blame for the demise of his business. They, the vague yet definable "they", had advanced upon his territory with their high-paced sales approach and their very high pockets and, without even the slightest hesitation, taken his market share.

They, those hungry-yet-prosperous-men-without-colour had brought their resources to bear on his line of business and, due to their scale and force and organization, wiped out his customer base. They did it, by this entrepreneur's admission, not by lowering prices or bringing forth a better product (all of his competitors provide the same products), but by the use of mass-media advertising of the best kind...television.

After some conversation, it became evident that the customers in his area were predominately Black and that the invading competition consisted of a large chain that previously remained outside the Beltway. Due to an idea in the heads of some that the market in Washington was less desirable than in the suburbs, these operators, largely franchised businesses, did not locate in the District and left it to D.C. consumers to drive out to them to purchase these products. But, the marketplace is a dynamic concept.

Eventually businesspeople inside D.C. noticed an opportunity and seized it. A few Black businesspeople opened similar outlets in Washington and the suburban operators soon noticed a drop in their business.

The D.C. market had made itself known as a real part of the industry.

As the conversation continued, it was revealed that the secret to the invasion was advertising. Further questioning brought out that small business people had advertised on the radio and in news print, but the big boys were able to advertise on television. They had the bucks and it is impossible to compete with them.

A question came to mind and the answer to it was also revealing. I asked this entrepreneur why was it that he and other small businesspersons in the same predicament did not form a coalition and pool their advertising dollars to meet this advance head on. I was told that the problem was an age-old one in this business community, and among people of colour, it was a lack of a feeling of cooperation and a lack of belief in each other that would always bring on a dispute as to "who was in charge."

This fact meant that it would be impossible to create such a cooperative effort given the fact that each business had its own name, its own structure and its own entrepreneur.

Not one to leave it at that, I asked if he had heard of the problem with the minority truckers in Washington when the Metro was oeginning construction. The fact that minority trucking companies were told that they could not qualify for bids because none of those companies had at least seven trucks, the minimum needed to apply for contracts to build Metro.

Given the fact that no minority company alone had the trucks to meet the requirement, they formed a trucking association in which each company owned a share equal to the number of trucks they put into the project. They elected a head for the organization and went after bids.

I pointed out that the situation he found himself confronting was not unique and will not be unique in the future. It occurred to me that any group of small businesses, even if they are not in the exact same line of product, can form a cooperative, create a corporation in which shares are equal to their input, pool their money to advertise the name of the corporation (just like Beatrice Foods or Proctor & Gamble), and develop a plan to franchise future businesses under that corporate name.

And, although we did not see eye to eye on everything, we did finally agree that the stereotypes of the infallible other guy and the inability of Blacks to cooperate were fading in this generation of legally limitless possibilities and twenty years of political punch.

The Living Church

Women's Convocation to draw thousands

By Maxine L. Wallace
AFRO Staff Writer

Three thousand women are expected to meet at the Baltimore Convention Center in downtown Baltimore for a three day worldwide interdenominational women's conference, opening Friday, Feb. 26 and convening through the 28th.

Decade '88 will commemorate the ten year anniversary of Convocation '78, "Let a Woman Rise," which attracted women of various backgrounds and denominations from all over the world to its site at Bethel AME Church, 1300 Druid Hill Ave.

Like the women's conferences that have been held annually since 1978, Decade '88 is an out growth of the vision of the Rev. Cecilia Williams Bryant of Bethel AME Church, for women to come together in support of each other by forming a sisterhood that will enable them to realize the full power that is promised in God's Word.

Addressing the women at the opening service on that Friday at 7 p.m. will be the Rev. Claudette Copeland, of San Antonio, Texas.

Then on Saturday, the 27th, at least 20 workshops pertaining to women's issues and concerns will be presented by women with special expertise in the varied areas.

Some workshops include: Being Single and Enjoying It; Woman to Woman; A Man, A Woman, and the Holy Ghost; and Raising a Manchild.

Helen Hutchinson, chairperson for the event said she is really excited about Decade '88. "I hope we can reach as many women as possible to come together, and share their experiences with one another," she said. "I also hope they will take what they have learned at the conference with them and share it with their families. I hope they will keep what they have learned with them for a life-time."

Rev. Adella Holt, Minister to Women at Bethel seemed equally enthused with the upcoming event. "Women are unique. Once we come together and share the gifts and talents God has given us, our individual gifts will impact upon each of us.

Also planned for the weekend of spiritual renewal is a Prayer Breakfast on Saturday, the 26 where Rev. Fernette Nichols of Washington, D.C. will be the keynote speaker.

A spiritual feast will be consumed on Saturday at 7 p.m. when the dynamic Evangelist Jackie McCullough, of Brooklyn, N.Y. will deliver the mesage. This service of praise is free to the public.

The closing service will be on Sunday, the 28th when the Rev. Cecelia Williams Bryant will be the speaker.

While there is no charge for the opening service, the praise service Friday evening, and the closing service Sunday morning, the monies raised from the prayer breakfast as well as the nominal fee for the cost of the Saturday workshops will go toward the progression of the Bethel AME Women's Resource and Development Center, 500 Dolphin St.

The center which has serviced more than 3000 women since it opened in 1985 was birthed from the proceeds of "Behold the Woman in 1980."

Rev. Holt is the Rev. Mrs. Bryant's successor in heading the center. "I am excited with the Lord that God afforded me the opportunity to work with women. He allowed my life to have so many experiences and so many victories that he gave me something to share," she said.

Holt said she sees the center for women expanding to a transitional center, which will offer reaffirmation for women who have come out of a shelter or prison. "My desire is to see women clearly walking in the fullness of what God has for them," she concluded.

Rev. Adella Holt, Minister to Women at Bethel AME Church

A WORD OF HOPE

Maxine L. Wallace
Church News Editor

"The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want." Psalm 23:1

Beloved, the Lord loves you. He who is the creator of the heavens and the earth . . . He who is the great I am . . . the magnificent and eternal Lord of all flesh really loves you.

Just as a shepherd tenderly loves the sheep of his flock, so does the Lord love you.

A shepherd is one who cares for a flock . . . He is one who is responsible for properly taking care of that flock . . . And so it is that the shepherd provides for the flock. He provides their food . He provides whatever his sheep need in order to live. A shepherd is a provider.

A shepherd is a leader. He is familiar with the paths along the road is therefore able to help his sheep . . . to guide his sheep . . . to teach his sheep . . . to lead his sheep. A shepherd is a leader.

A shepherd acts on behalf of his flock. He is there to protect the sheep from wolves and from any other animal that may serve as a threat to them. A shepherd is a protector.

And so it is that we, who are the children of God, are likened unto sheep in the Bible.

A sheep needs direction . . . a sheep needs provision . . . a sheep needs a shepherd.

And the Bible says, "The Lord is my shepherd . . ." Therefore, the Lord is my provider . . . The Lord is my protection . . . It is He who satisfies my life with good things.

Yeah . . . I will hope in the Lord . . . For He is my shepherd. He cares for you, my friend. A songwriter once said, "Oh, yes He cares . . . I know He cares . . . His heart is touched with my grief." The Lord, our God, cares for you. Think not that His heart is not touched by your pain . . . Think not that His heart does not break each time you live beneath the standards He has set for your ultimate good. Oh, how He cares for you. His mercies are new every morning.

The Lord is my shepherd. When I feel like I have lost my direction . . . When all around me is darkness . . . When I don't know whether I'm coming or going . . . The Lord is my shepherd. It is He who leads me and shows me the path that I must walk. The Bible says . . . The footsteps of a good man, and of a good woman are ordered by the Lord. He leads me beside the still waters . . . And yes, He leads me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake. The Lord is my shepherd.

The Bible says, "The name of the Lord is a strong tower; the righteous runneth into it and is safe." God is my rock and my refuge . . . In Him will I trust. He is my shelter from the stormy blast . . . He is my peace in the midst of a storm . . . He is my fortress and my shield. When the storms of life are raging, I am safe in His arms; for He is my protection by day and by night. The Lord is the strength of my life . . . of whom shall I be afraid. Yes, the Lord is my shepherd.

The Lord is my shepherd . . . For God is my provider.

Beloved, "Take no thought saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed?" For the Lord is your shepherd. Not only will He supply all of your needs, but He will also satisfy all of your desires. Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good!

And because He is my shepherd . . . I shall not want. The Lord is my joy in times of sorrow . . . I shall not want. The Lord is my help in ages past and my hope for years to come . . . I shall not want. The Lord is my bread when I'm hungry and my water in dry places. I shall not want. The Lord is my bridge over troubled waters . . . I shall not want. The Lord is my comfort by day and my song in the night . . . I shall not want. The Lord is my shepherd. And the Bible says, at the name of Jesus, every knee shall bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord. Therefore, Jesus is the true shepherd. Won't you allow Jesus to be your shepherd?

Clergy of Central Churches to address AIDS

By Maxine L. Wallace
AFRO Staff Writer

In response to the AIDS crisis, the Clergy of Central Churches will initiate a healing service on Sunday, Feb. 7 at 5 p.m. in Eccleston Chapel, Emmanuel Episcopal Church, Read Street at Cathedral.

The services will continue at 5 p.m. on the first Sunday of each month.

The Rev. Douglas Fox, coordinator for the services stated the need for church involvement in the social problems and needs that affect the community.

"One of the main responsibilities of the church is to be interested in providing services to people in crisis and in need," he said.

"The Central Clergy, decided to do this program as a response to our commitment to providing healing, as well as health education in the midst of the AIDS crisis," he continued.

The healing service will have three components: preaching, laying on of hands, as practiced by Christians since earliest times, and communion.

Endorsed by the AIDS Interfaith Network, the purpose of the healing services is to minister to those who may themselves be victims of AIDS or who have family members or associates afflicted with the disease.

"It is for people who come together to pray for and support persons with AIDS," said Fox.

The efforts of this service are also endorsed by Lutheran Concerned, a support group for gay and lesbian people within the Lutheran Church.

According to Fox, two clergy of the Central churches will officiate at the healing services each month.

The service of healing is not only intended for physical healing to take place, but also for people to receive emotional and spiritual healing as well.

"We claim physical healing, but also, for AIDS victims to find peace, hope, and reconciliation," said Fox.

Rev. Fox is an ecumenical campus minister and relates to college students in the downtown Baltimore area. His office is at Mt. Vernon Place United Methodist Church, Charles Street at the Washington at the Washington Monument.

"I am on staff at Mt. Vernon Place, but my main job is in campus ministry," he said.

The Central Clergy, a professional support group for clergy in the Central Baltimore area has 19 affiliates.

Ecumenical service brings unity

By Maxine L. Wallace
AFRO Staff Writer

Local religious leaders joined together in a special city-wide ecumenical service honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. at the culminating service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity on Sunday, Jan. 24.

A reaffirmation of the Baptismal Covenant was included in the activities at the Cathedral of Mary Our Queen, 5300 N. Charles St.

This service was reflective of the efforts of the Central Maryland Ecumenical Council to bring together religious groups irregardless of their differences.

"There are differences in denominations, but we have a lot more in common than we recognize," said Richard Kelly, the executive director.

The guest speaker for the occasion was the Rev. Dr. James Alexander Forbes, professor of preaching at Union Theological Seminary in New York City.

He emphasized upon the need for the religious community to come together and learn from one another despite denominational differences.

Forbes is noted as one of the nation's most distinguished preachers, and has spoken in leading pulpits throughout the United States.

Forbes also challenged his audience to plainly make their petition of needs to God, but on the other hand, always be open to hear what it is that God really thinks they need.

Kelly spoke of the need for denominations to not only relate to one another in special ecumenical services, but for them to establish an on-going oneness.

"I think it's nice to have ecumenical services, but we need to have on-going working relationships with those of other denominations," he said.

"It is most important that we work together on a day to day basis."

According to Kelly, there are some 31 different denominations in the Central Maryland area. "We tend to focus on differences, when we should be focusing and building upon similarities," he said.

The Central Maryland Ecumenical Council seeks to unite denominations by a process of networking.

Originally called the Maryland Council of Churches it was reorganized and restructured in 1985.

According to Kelly, CMEC also operates a hospice for persons with AIDS, publishes a directory of churches and denominations and brings the heads together on a regular basis.

The operations and goals of CMEC are many. There is only one intent, however; to break down the walls of denominational differences and build up the wall of Christian unity.

Governor honors Rev. Muse

Gov. William Donald Schaefer has appointed C. Anthony Muse of Brandywine to the State Ethics Commission to fill the remainder of a five-year term ending July 1, 1992, left vacant by the death of the Rev. John Wesley Holland.

Muse was nominated for the position by the president of the senate. His appointment is effective immediately.

Since 1984 Muse has been pastor of Gibbons United Methodist Church, Brandywine. From 1977 to 1984 he was pastor of Mt. Zion United Methodist Church, Ellicott City, and Mt. Olivet United Methodist Church, Catonsville.

Muse holds a bachelor's degree in history from Morgan State University and a master's degree in divinity from Wesley Theological Seminary. He is a doctoral candidate in administration at Howard University.

Muse is currently president of the Southern Maryland Ministers' Association.

He serves on the Baltimore-Washington Area Methodist Conference's Education Committee and the Budget and Finance Committee of the United Methodist Missionary Priority Committee. He is youth coordinator for the program of 65 churches in the Washington-East District.

Until December, 1987 Muse was a member of the Foster Care Review Board of Prince George's County. He has also served as chaplain for Howard University's Policy Force and on the executive board of Southern Maryland Area Self Help.

—Metro Church Briefs—

Christ U.M. hosts mini workshops

On Sunday, Jan. 31 at 1:15 p.m. the Men's and Women's Day Committee of Christ United Methodist Church will sponsor a Mini Workshop at their church, situated at the corners of Washington and E. Chase Streets. The topic is a "A Study of Exodus," Chapters 1-18. The adult workshop leader is Rev. Paul R. Ball, Assoc. Pastor of Waters AME. The teen and children's group will be led by a representative from their church Bible Study Group, Ms. Betty West, and Mrs. Saundra Cook, the Superintendent of Sunday School. There is no admission, just bring your spirit. A light lunch will be served. Call the church between 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

John Wesley hosts birthday celebration

A birthday celebration in honor of Mrs. Carrie Mathews will be held at John Wesley United Methodist Church, 6922 Ritchie Highway on Sunday, Jan. 31 at 1:30 p.m. There will be a dinner party and a Biblical Fashion Show. Mathews celebrated her 100th birthday Jan. 26.

St. John to celebrate Women's Day

St. John AME Church, 810 N. Carrollton Ave., will celebrate 100 Women in White as part of its 1988 Women's Day celebration on Sunday, Feb. 7 at a 3 p.m. service. There will be Christian women speaking, dramatic reading and gospel singing. Mrs. Anna Chandler is the coordinator, and Rev. Benjamin Foust is the pastor.

St. John to host birthday celebration

"Everybody's Birthday Party" will be celebrated at St. John AME Church, 810 N. Carrollton Ave. on Sunday, Feb. 14 at 1:30 p.m. Each person is asked to pay 10 cents for each year of age. There will be lots of food and appropriate decorations. Special rates for senior citizens will be available.

Simmons Memorial plans one night revival

The Senior Usher Board of Simmons Memorial Baptist Church, 601 Cumberland St. will sponsor a one night revival Friday, Feb. 12 at 7:30 p.m. The guest speaker is Rev. John R. Bryant, pastor of Bethel AME Church in Baltimore. All are invited.

Married Couples celebrate Valentines

The Married Couples Enrichment Fellowship of Bethel AME Church, 1300 Druid Hill Ave. invites you to a "Candle Light Dinner" Saturday, Feb. 13 at 5:30 p.m. in Coker Hall of the Church. All married couples are invited to come. For ticket information, call 523-4273.

Good Shepherd to celebrate pastor's anniversary

Good Shepherd Baptist Church, 3459 Park Heights Ave. will have its Pastorial Anniversary Service on Thursday, February 4 at 7:30 p.m. Rev. Jimmy Baldwin is the guest speaker. Call 462-5864.

Register of Wills to preach trial sermon

By Maxine L. Wallace
AFRO Staff Writer

The Honorable Mary Conaway, Register of Wills for Baltimore City, will preach her initial sermon at Centennial-Caroline Street United Methodist Church, 1029 E. Monument St. on Sunday, Jan. 31, at 3:30 p.m.

Mary Conaway

Conaway said her sermon topic is "We've been in the storm too long," taken from Genesis 3:8.

"I believe there are several stages to life, and God gives us a task to fulfill every stage. If we obey the will of the Lord, our living shall not be in vain," she said.

She accepted her call to the preaching ministry when she recently joined Centennial-Caroline Street, where the pastor is Rev. Mamie A. Williams-Munjoma.

"The call into the ministry is nothing strange to me. I've had a form of ministry through song since age three," said Conaway.

"Preaching is just another phase."

Conaway, a native of Wilson, North Carolina, has been a resident of Baltimore for 18 years.

She has shared her music ministry throughout the city, directing choirs at churches such as Waters AME, Enon Baptist and Strawbridge United Methodist.

Conaway joined St. John AME Zion Church in North Carolina as a youth and served as the pianist for the Youth Choir, was a Bible School teacher and the chairman of the Youth Department.

"My task has been to minister to people through music, teaching, training, giving aid, and now preaching," said Conaway.

School children star in radio tribute on WJRO Radio

Echoes of voices from a local school went over the waves last Wednesday as a Glen Burnie radio host spun a tribute to Martin Luther King, Jr.

Clifton Bennett is the host of the High Time in Gospel Program on AM radio station WJRO.

The idea started when Curtis Bay Elementary School teacher, Vernella Trull mentioned to Bennett that she had planned to play a piano instrumental in tribute to King and that the 4th, 5th, and special education classes were to sing songs in tribute.

The singing was recorded for Bennett's program. Once he heard it, he said, "Oh good, it's just the thing I needed for a tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King and the young people. It was very inspiring. It gives you an uplift when you hear children's voices singing sincerely. There's something different about it. It's a sound that makes you listen."

Also on the program M's Trull and Mrs. Patricia Cutchember, the music teacher played a musical selection, "Keep the Dream Alive." Trull played the piano while Cutchember played the organ. In between their selection, Bennett dubbed parts of King's speeches. He also recorded King's words with the students singing "Dr. Martin Luther King" in the background.

The children were excited bout hearing themselves on radio and could not wait for the night of the radio debut.

Trull said she believes that music helps children to understand the concepts of Dr. King's message.

Bennett said his radio audience was pleased with the tribute.

Mrs. Carolyn Hoes, the principal of Curtis Bay Elementary School was very pleased that the students had this opportunity for self-expression.

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