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Saturday, January 27, 1990

Remembering mamma: the vision that was hers

By Evan. Theresa Mercer
AFRO Church Writer

As Mrs. Beulah M. Caldwell remembers the events of her mother's life, she vividly recalls the first days of Knox Presbyterian Church.

Mrs. Caldwell's mother, Mrs. Essie Hall, who is now 98 years old, held the first meeting concerning the organization of Knox in her home at 906 Rutland Ave. in the early 1900s.

Mrs. Hall who was originally from Goldsboro, North Carolina, was of the Presbyterian faith when she came to Baltimore.

At that time the closest Black Presbyterian Church was Grace Presbyterian Church on Dolphin and Etting Streets.

Mrs. Hall felt the distance was too far from her home for her children to walk to Sunday School.

Being dedicated to the Presbyterian faith, she consulted the Presbytery of Baltimore, that they would consider establishing a Black Presbyterian Parish on the East Side.

With the approval of the presbytery officials, the elders of Grace held Sunday School for the Knox family in the old Star Theater on East Monument St.

Because the Knox family wanted a home of their own, they moved to an old house in the 1600 block of Monument Street, where they would in time, move to three different houses in that same block.

As the congregation grew and more space was needed, the Knox family moved into what was a saloon on the corner of Eden and Jefferson Sts. and the family continued to grow there for years.

When the Presbytery saw the mighty move of God in this work, they helped the Knox family move into the old Bohemian Church located on Ashland and Washington Streets.

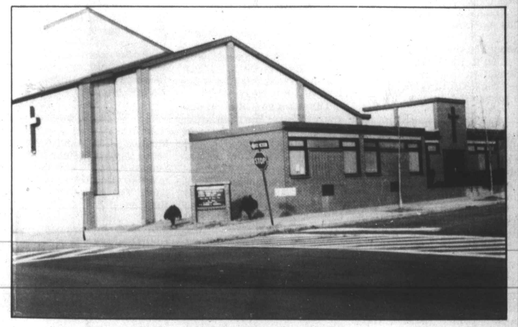
Later the Knox family moved to Broadway, Gay and Biddle Streets, where God's work was wondrously done.

The Presbytery brought Rev. Octavius Graham to Baltimore to pastor the Knox family.

On May 30, 1929, the Knox Church was officially organized by a commission sent by the Baltimore Presbytery.

After many years of dedicated service to the Presbyterian faith, Knox was admitted to the Baltimore Presbytery Conference, on May 20, 1930. Rev. Graham remained Knox's pastor until 1973.

Rev. Gordon Marshall



Knox Presbyterian Church

Rev. Lonnie J. Oliver became Knox's second pastor in July of 1975 and served until July 1984.

Rev. Oliver, a strong servant of the Lord Jesus Christ, was able to do many works at Knox.

Rev. Oliver's theme was, "Attempt Great Things for God And Expect Great Things From God."

Rev. Oliver's theme song, "There Is No Secret What God Can Do," was proven when the Knox family built their new ediface from ground up.

On July 1, 1979, the Knox family marched with Rev. Oliver to their new home on Preston and Eden Streets.

On July 1, 1984, Rev. Oliver resigned from Knox to become Dean of Johnson C. Smith Seminary in Atlanta, Georgia.

Knox's first woman pastor, Rev. Bernice Warren was assistant from Aug. 1, 1980, until July, 1984.

Many out - reach programs were implemented under Rev. Oliver's watch.

The Church has a Prison Ministry, a Youth Ministry, a Christian Education, Senior Citizens and Community Outreach. The youth participated in a universal Christian Ministry. Knox also has a tutorial program.

Rev. Gordon L. Marshall, his wife Sharon and their four sons were brought to Baltimore from Chicago to be the third pastor of Knox Presbyterian Church.

On May 4, 1986, Rev. Marshall was installed by Rev. Oliver as pastor of Knox.

Knox's many programs are continuing with strong emphasis on the youth and the elderly. On Fridays Knox feeds between 200 - 280 people, Knox services those in need through their food and clothing banks.

Knox rejoices in its past. It was the yester years that has caused them to be who they are today, a church dedicated to the will of God.

A church whose theme is "We Are Somebody, We Are God's Children."

REV. MARION CURTIS BASCOM, SR.

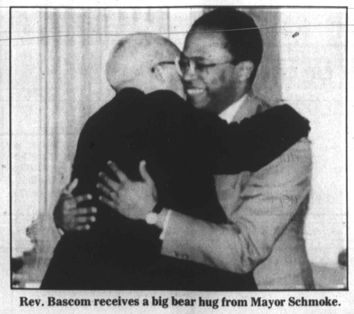
40 years Douglas Memorial

AT LEFT: The Bascom family is recognized during the ceremonies at the 40th anniversary celebration. L to R: Marion Bascom, Jr., Rev. Marion Bascom, Sr., Peter Bascom and Singleton Bascom.

LOWER LEFT: Rev. Bascom sits in the pew, surrounded by his wife and friends during services at the celebration.

LOWER RIGHT: Greetings took the form of a big bear hug as Mayor Kurt Schmoke and Rev. Bascom meet on this happy occasion.

Rev. Marion Curtis Bascom



Rev. Bascom receives a big bear hug from Mayor Schmoke.

A WORD OF HOPE

By Maxine L. Wallace

"Fret not thyself because of evildoers, neither be thou envious against the workers of iniquity." Psalm 37:1.

My friend, God is on our side. The omnipotent Holy Lord God of Israel is on our side. The Almighty . . . Everlasting . . . Creator of the heavens and the earth is on our side. And the Bible says, If God be for us, who can be against us.

Therefore, beloved, do not be upset when enemies rise up against you, Do not get all bent out of shape if everybody doesn't like you. Don't fall to pieces when people talk about you and say all manner of evil against you; for the Bible says, Blessed are they who are persecuted for righteousness' sake. Yes, God is on our side. . . .

When you got saved, God did not promise that you wouldn't have anymore heartaches and disappointments. He didn't say that you wouldn't have to cry sometimes . . . He didn't say that family members wouldn't reject you . . . when you got saved, God didn't promise you a rose garden.

But I'm so glad that in the midst of heartaches and disappointments . . . in the midst of trials and tribulations . . . when my enemies rise up against me . . . when men try to do me in . . . when my supervisor ain't acting right . . . when the friend I trusted the most turns his back on me . . . I'm so glad that I've got a friend that will stick closer than a brother . . . a friend that will never turn his back on me . . . a friend that I can call up in the midnight hour . . . a friend that will never let me down . . . He's my joy in the time of sorrow . . . He's my bridge over troubled water . . . .

A songwriter said, He's my comfort by day and my son in the night. He's the lifter of my countenance . . . He's the Lord my healer . . . He's my rock and my refuge . . . He's my defense and strong tower . . . He's my rock in a weary land . . . He's the hope of my salvation . . .He's my help . . . He's my peace . . . He's my joy . . . He's my all. His name is Jesus! Hallelujah! His name is Jesus! Hallelujah! If you love the Lord, why don't you just lift up your hands right now and give the Lord . . . the Lord a wave offering.

Fret not thyself because of evildoers . . . those who despise you . . . those who want to do you in . . . Don't let it get you down. Lift up your heads oh ye gates, and the King of Glory shall come in. He's gonna make everything all right . . . He's gonna bring you out. The Bible says, No weapon formed against me shall prosper . . . gossip can't prosper . . . backbiting can't prosper, lying tongues can't prosper . . . criticisms can't prosper . . . deceit can't prosper . . . Every tongue that raiseth itself against me, I'm gonna condemn it. In Christ Jesus, we are more than conquerors.

Beloved, you don't have to be envions of workers of iniguity. For the wicked shall not always prosper. It may seem like they're having a good time right now .