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Saturday, Feburary 10, 1990

A WORD OF HOPE

By Maxine L. Wallace

"The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusted in Him, and I am helped: therefore my heart greatly rejoiceth; and with my song will I praise Him." Psalm 28:7.

Beloved, God is a very present help in the time of need. Know that the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob is your strong deliverer . . . The Almight, Omnipotent King of Israel is our rock and our fortress. It is because of His tender mercies and His loving kindness that I am not consumed by the hand of the enemy. Great is our God's faithfulness. He is the same God yesterday . . . today . . . and yes, forevermore. Hallelujah!

In life, we are faced with obstacles and . . . some challenges. Sometimes, trials and tribulations knock at our door. In this life, if we're not careful . . . even as Christians, we can begin to center in on our problems instead of on Jesus, who is the problem solver. If we're not careful, we will find ourselves carrying the weight of our burdens instead of turning it all over to Jesus. My friend, if we're not careful, we will allow circumstances and situations to rule us and to determine our joy level. If we're not careful, we'll forget who we are. We'll forget that we are sons and daughters of the Most High God . . . that we are joint heirs to the throne with Christ Jesus . . . that we have been given authority and power over satan, the enemy. Beloved, we cannot afford to forget who we are . . . we cannot afford to forget whose we are. We belong to the Lord God who is strong in battle. We belong to the Lord God Omnipotent . . . He who has all power . . . He who said let there be, and behold there is . . . He who has the power to raise up and the power to pull down . . . he who has dominion over the whole universe . . . we belong to God . . . Hallelujah!

And the Bible says that the Lord is my strength. My friend, when you are weak, then are you strong in the Lord. You don't have to rely on your own strength and your own power. You don't have to play your confidence in your human abilities and intellect. Trust in the Lord with all thine heart . . . and do not lean unto your own understanding. The Lord is our strength. It is He that gives us the strength to fulfill the mission of our calling . . . it is He who speaks peace to our heart in the midnight hour . . . It is He who helps us to hold on and hold out. For the Bible says that weeping may endure for a night, but behold . . . take confidence . . . rest assure . . . You can count on it . . . joy cometh in the morning. A song writer said, what have I to dread; what have I to fear . . . leaning on the everlasting arms . . .

I have blessed peace with my Lord so dear . . . leaning on the everlasting arms. When you feel weak, you can lean on Jesus . . . He's a burden bearer . . . He's a mind fixer . . . He's a heart regulator . . . Somebody said, He's my comfort by day and my song in the night. Is Jesus your all and all? Do you know Him as a shield and a protection? Our God is a mighty fortress. Come on and give the Lord a clap offering.

My friend, let's rejoice in the Lord. Because we trust Him, we don't have to wait until the battle is over, we can shout now . . . we can praise Him right now . . . We can thank Him right now . . . We

(Continued on Page D3)

Friendship Baptist Church

by Evan. Theresa Mercer
AFRO Church Writer

Pastor William McCoy, Jr., was called to the ministry at the early age of 18. Pastor McCoy originally from Washington, D.C., moved to Baltimore after his marriage to Thelma Whitt.

It was in 1953, after Rev. McCoy joined Jerusalem F.B.H. Holiness Church, 1905 Rosedale Street, that he answered his call.

In time, Rev. McCoy would be asked to go to Georgetown, Delaware, to help a small group who was worshipping in a house to establish a church.

Being dedicated to the will of God, Rev. McCoy, his wife and five children began their journeying on Friday evenings and stayed thru Monday mornings.

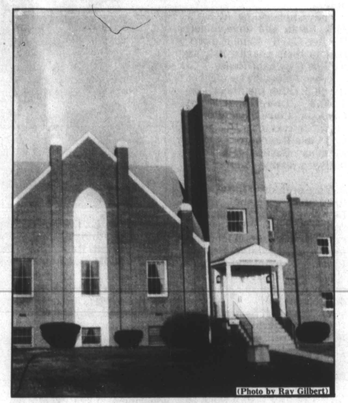
One hundred and forty miles each way as they traveled to do the will of God. Rev. McCoy believed God when he said, (Proverbs 28:20) A faithful man shall abound with blessings.

Through the leading of the Holy Spirit, much obedience and love, the Georgetown Church of God was formed and built from the ground up.

When Rev. McCoy was led from the Georgetown Church, he joined the Central Baptist Church under Rev. Montague Brackett. Still, he continued to follow his call.

Almost 23 years ago, Friendship Baptist Church recognized the strengths of Rev. McCoy, and called him to pastor their church family.

Friendship Baptist Church was once a part of Mt. Moriah. After separating from it's mother church, members began meeting in the home of one of it's founders in what is known as Pig town.



(Photo by Ray Gilbert)

Fountain Baptist Church

Rev. William McCoy, Jr.

After forming Friendship Baptist Church, the church family moved to 1330 Carrol St. into a church building.

Church growth caused the friendship family to move into their home 346 N. Denison Street.

In 1967, Rev. McCoy became pastor of Friendship. Through the leading of the Holy Spirit, the church exprienced progressive growth in every area.

In October of 1988, the Friendship Baptist Family moved to it's present home 6000 Loch Raven Boulevard.

"We are about the total ministry of the whole man, "states Rev. McCoy.

Friendship is blessed to have four other ministers sent to help strengthen the family there; Rev. Alvin Gwynn Assistant Pastor, Rev. Juanita Holland, Minister to Visitation, and Rev. Sarah Shelton and Rev. Florence Alcorn.

Friendship has one choir of 70 plus members. Family night is Wednesday nights at 7:15.

Families come to Friendship and worship together for about 45 minutes. After the worship, classes are formed by ages, from kindergarten to senior citizens for Bible Study.

Friendship Baptist Church has a Prison Outreach, a Nursing Home Outreach, a Food Pantry and they support the Baltimore Food Bank. Friendship has a door to door Evangelism Outreach team.

Also a drug rehabilitation program is going to begin on Feb. 26 and 27 and continue on March 1 and 2.

The drug problem is being taught by Pastor Isaiah Hill, from 6 to 9:30 on these days. This program is taught strictly from the scriptures.

Those in attendance will learn how to handle situations with alcoholics and drug addicts God's way.

Friendship is, "a church that extends it's friendship to everyone." Our thrust is preaching, teaching and evangelism." says Pastor McCoy. Rev. McCoy and the church theme is: (Numbers 10:29? Come Thou with us and we will do Thee good.

METRO CHURCH BRIEFS

Pennsylvania AME Zion Church

The Women of Zion at Pennsylvania AME Zion Church will host Pre-Valentine Tea at the church, Saturday, Feb. 10 at 1 p.m. Mrs. Mattie Shaw is chairperson.

Monthly Meeting

The Spiritual Life Commission of Clergy Women Of Maryland And Vicinity, a local chapter of the National Baptist Convention of America, USA, Inc. will hold its monthly meeting on Saturday, Feb. 10 at 1 p.m. Meeting will be held at the Salem Baptist Church, 1434 North Gay St. For further information, call 744-0485 or 665-3218.

Berea Temple Of Seventh Day Adventists

In observance of Black History Month, Berea Temple is sponsoring its Annual Benefit Concert featuring Morgan State University Choir, Saturday, Feb. 10 at 6 p.m. Concert, which is open to general public, is held at the church located at 1901 Madison Ave at Robert St. Call 276-0306 or 944-4444.

First Baptist Church of Cherry Hill

Rev. Dr. Harold A. Carter, his choirs and congregation will be in fellowship with the First Baptist Church of Cherry Hill on Monday, Feb. 12 at 7:30 for benefit of mortgage burning.

Ebenezer AME Church

The Women of Ebenezer AME Church will hold a Candlelight Dinner for benefit of Women's Day on Feb. 17 at 6 p.m. The dinner's theme, "Celebrating Womanhood" will be held at the church, 20 W. Montgomery St. Call 783-0190.

Douglas Memorial Community Church

The Chancel Choir of Douglas Memorial Community Church will present a concert of Afro-American music on Sunday, Feb. 18 at 5 p.m. Concert will take place at church located at Madison and Lafayette Aves. Call 523-1700 or 523-8725.

Mt. Lebanon Baptist Church

In observance of Black History Celebration, Mount Lebanon Baptist Church, 2812-14 Reisterstown Road, will present the drama, "Redemption in Black Theology," adapted from the book of the same name written by the pastor, Dr. Olin P. Moyd. Presentation will take place at the church Sunday, Feb. 18 at 6 p.m. The book will be on sale and autographed by Dr. Moyd the evening of the drama.

Waters AME Church

The Women's Day Committee of Waters AME Church, 417 N. Aisquith St. will present "Imani-Faith" which will feature guest speakers and fashion show Saturday, Feb. 17 from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the church. On Sunday, Feb. 18, Faith Rally will be held immediately following morning worship service. Call 675-2640.

John Wesley United Methodist Church

The Music Committee of John Wesley United Methodist Church, 3202 W. North Ave. will present one of the nation's most prestigious campus ensembles, Morgan State University Choir in concert on Sunday, Feb. 18 at 4 p.m. Call 462-9512.

Payne Memorial AME Church

Payne Memorial AME Church, 1714 Madison Ave. presents Founder's Day Celebration Banquet on Saturday, Feb. 24 at 5 p.m. Event will be held at the church. Call 669-8739 or 235-6414.

Gospel Spreading Church of God

The Number One Choir of the Gospel Spreading Church of God, 4310 Edmondson Ave will observe its 19th annual "Gospel Impressions Program" on Sunday, Feb. 25 at 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. in the auditorium of the Edmondson High School, directly across the street from the church. Dinner will be served from 3:30 - 5:30 p.m.

Emmanuel C.C. Church

In commemoration of Black History Month, the Parents Board of Emmanuel C.C. Church will present Ms. Sandra Meekins, member of the Arena Players Inc. in a dramatization of "Black Characters Of The Past" Friday, Feb. 23, 7 p.m., at the church, 1210 W. Lanvale St. For further information. call 669-9375.

Rev. Nichols named Eastern District head

EASTON (Md.) — United Methodist Bishop Joseph H. Yeakel of the Washington Area made history this week by appointing the Rev. Charlotte Ann Nichols superintendent of the Easton District.

She is the first woman district superintendent in the Peninsula Conference and the first Black woman United Methodist district superintendent in the United States.

In making the appointment, Bishop Yeakel said, "Rev. Nichols is a good pastor and a good administrator; she has all the gifts and graces necessary for the superintendency. Gender and race are incidental in this decision."

"She is recognized as a leader among her peers," said the bishop.

Her appointment will be effective July 1, 1990.

A native of Hurlock, Maryland, in the Easton District, Rev. Nichols, 39, is currently serving the Easton-Miles River Charge.

Four of the five congregations on the charge recently merged to form one congregation. They are Deshields, John Wesley, McGee, and Staten Chapel United Methodist Churches.

She served the Girdletree Charge in Somerset County, Maryland, for six years in her previous pastoral appointment.

Rev. Nichols received her undergraduate education from Wesley College, Dover, Delaware, and Salisbury State University, Salisbury, Maryland, with degrees in elementary education.

She taught elementary and middle school in Dorchester County, Maryland, before responding to the call to the ordained ministry.

She earned Master's degrees in both Religious Education and Divinity from Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, D.C.

She was ordained an elder and received full conference membership in 1979. She is a Wesley Theological Seminary Advisory Committee member.

Rev. Nichols says she feels "very comfortable" with the prospect of being a "pastor to pastors." "I love people and I love my colleagues. Everywhere I've gone, I've always felt support from my colleagues in the Peninsula Conference.