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THE LIVING CHURCH

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Saturday, March 3, 1990

Founders Day celebration of the AME Church

By Evan. Theresa Mercer
AFRO Church Writer

To commemorate the 203rd year of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, Payne Memorial AME, 1714 Madison Ave., held a "Founders Day Celebration Banquet," Feb. 24.

In the early days of the Methodist Church, Blacks were allowed to worship right along with the Whites. As the congregations grew, the Blacks were forced to worship alongside the walls and in the galleries.

The change for Richard Allen came about when he and other Blacks were asked to stop praying in the balconies of St. George Methodist Church of Philadelphia.

Richard Allen, Absalom Jones and William White were down on their knees praying when White trustees of their church asked them to stop praying.

Absalom Jones said, "wait until the prayer is over and I will get up and trouble you no more.

"The trustees began to pull on those praying. By that time the prayer was over and we all went out of the church in a body and they were no more plagued with us in the church," added Absalom Jones.

The Blacks were not only segregated in where they could worship, they were being persecuted in their worship.

The Blacks, God loving people, dedicated to their faith and strong in the Lord, began to worship in their homes.

Those who wanted to worship as one in the Methodist faith, either went, or was represented by, a delegate in Philadelphia, where Richard Allen and several others of the Free African Society, formed the African Methodist Episcopal Church, on April 12, 1787.

Richard Allen became the first Bishop of the African Methodist Episcopal Church in 1816.

The AME Church has continued to thrive. The AME Church is the oldest and is the largest Black institution. To date, there are over 7,500 congregations with 18 active Bishops. The churches are located in the United States, Caribbean, and South and West Africa.

Through song and narration, Payne Memorial, was able to reflect on the struggles and achievements of our forefathers. For those in attendance, the awesomeness of our legacy was renewed.

Payne Memorial highlighted and gave tribute to some of Baltimore's distinguished citizens who, serve as positive role models for our young people.

The honoree's in attendance included: Mrs. Frances Murphy Draper, President of the AFRO American Newspaper; Mrs. Clustine Ford, Educator; Mr. Nathaniel McFadden, Educator (former 2nd District Councilman); Ms. Sandra Pinckney, News Anchor, WJZ-TV;

Del. Howard (Pete) Rawlings, Md. State House of Delegates; Dr. Nina Rawlings, pediatrician and Rev. Howard Camper, Pastor of Payne Memorial AME.

The celebration's African dance was performed by Joe Ann Wiliams as a part of the program.

The Victory Ensemble from Payne Memorial, rendered the music.

The narration was done by Payne Memorial Children of Light.

The program ended with the lighting of candles in honor or those who were being saluted, and with the singing of "Lift Every Voice."

Mrs. Nathaniel McFadden accepts a rose of appreciation while the Rev. Howard Camper and his wife look on.

(Photos by Raymond Linear)

Participants joined together in song during the celebration.

Mrs. Clustine Ford, Mrs. Frances Draper, Dr. Nina Rawlings and Delegate Pete Rawlings.

Carylon Duncan served as Mistress of Ceremonies.

St. Paul Apostolic: no storefront church

By Cherring Spence
Church Secretary

"Mortgage Burning Celebration" slated to take place on March 3, at Martin's Eastwind, at 7:00 p.m.

St. Paul Apostolic Holiness Church began its christian ministry and community service over 30 years ago under the vision of Winnie Gilliam and pastorship of the late Ernest G. Gilliam, Sr.

Doors were opened to the Baltimore community on November 30, 1959, at 1600 N. Broadway.

When started there was a membership that consisted of 10 adult members and their children. The first Sunday School offering was $1.10. It was what is known as a storefront church.

With the passing of time, it became necessary to move. On July 1, 1962 came a move to the Washington Hill area—1725 East Baltimore Street. A few years later the church was able to purchase the building adjacent. When the city decided to renovate this portion of Washington Hill, all of the neighbors moved.

With God's help we were able to weather the storm during the renovation process. In 1984 we began renovation work of our own because of an increase in membership and a desire not to be an eyesore in the community.

This was a major undertaking for us. However, we were able to secure a loan (a second mortgage) for the project.

Things have drastically changed since we first opened our doors. We have grown tremendously. We have approximately 300 members now. We have members that live right here in the Washington Hill area, in Columbia, Woodlawn, Parkville, Randallstown, and Dulaney Valley.

We have members who are educators, administrators, law enforcers, and those from the health care field: nurses, technicians; and, Dr. Larry Perry, a noted cardiologist. We are no longer a store-front church!

As a leader in the community, we lend a helping hand whenever and wherever possible. We have given aid to some who were homeless; we have participated in summer employment programs for those from low-income families;

We have had drug and alcohol counseling programs; we have financially helped those who were about to be evicted from their homes; and, have furnished oil for those who were without heat.

We now have a food give away program, giving food and clothing, on occasion, to needy families on a bi-weekly basis.

METRO CHURCH BRIEFS

St. Mark's Institutional Baptist Church

St. Mark's Institutional Baptist Church, 655 N. Bentalou St. will host World Day of Prayer Services, sponsored by Church Women United, Friday, March 2 at 12 noon. Children Services, observing theme, "A Better Tomorrow — Justice For All," will be held Saturday, March 3 at 1 p.m." All are invited. Call 233-7913.

Hemingway Temple AME Church

Benefit activities of the men of Hemingway Temple AME Church, 2701 Woodview Rd in observance of Annual Men's Day include: Gospel Extravaganza, Sunday, Feb. 25, 4 p.m.; Variety Dinner, Saturday, March 3 from 12 noon until 6 p.m.; Prayer Breakfast, Saturday, March 10 and the 39th Annual Men's Day Service, Sunday, March 11 at church. Guest speakers are the Right Rev. H. H. Brookins, presiding Bishop of the Second Episcopal District of the AME Church, 11 a.m. service and Rev. Grainger Browning, pastor, Ebenezer AME Church, Fort Washington, with choir and congregation at 3:30 p.m. service. The theme of the day is "Christian Men Empowered by Christ to Make a Change." Call 355-1155, 859-0748 or 355-2929.

Memorial Baptist Church

75th Anniversary of the Male and Female Ushers of Memorial Baptist Church, Caroline and Preston Sts., will take place Sunday, March 11 at 3 p.m. Guest speaker is the Rev. Clifford Johnson, pastor, Mount Pleasant Baptist Church.

Mt. Zion AME Church

Mt. Zion AME Church, 12728 Manor Road, Long Green, MD is hosting World Day of Prayer services, March 7 at 7 p.m. at the church. All are invited to attend. Call 592-6039.

Concord Baptist Church

The Music Department of Concord Baptist Church, 5204 Liberty Heights Ave. will present "Ebony Impact" of Old Dominion University, Norfolk, VA in concert Saturday, March 3 at 6 p.m.

Waters AME Church

The Women's Day Committee of Waters AME Church will host a Prayer Breakfast on Saturday, March 3 at 9 a.m. for benefit of upcoming 85th Annual Women's Day. Affair will be held at church, 417 N. Aisquith St. Call 675-2640.

Maximum Life Christian Church

Evangelist Rita Twigg, Washington, DC will conduct 11:15 a.m. services, Sunday, March 4 at Maximum Life Christian Church, 4015 Liberty Heights Ave. Call 664-0334.

Gillis Memorial Community Church

On Sunday, March 5, Gillis Memorial Community Church will host the Annual Family and Friends Day sponsored by the Deacons and Deaconess of the church. Rev. Virginia Wise will be 8:30 a.m. speaker and pastor, Rev. Theodore C. Jackson, Jr. will speak at 11 a.m. service. Rev. Kevin Rogers and The New Fellowship C.C. Church are guests at 3:30 p.m. service. Events held at church, 4016 Park Heights Ave. Call 466-2800.

St. Timothy's Christian Baptist Church

St. Timothy's Christian Baptist Church, 4007 Groveland Ave. will hold following events during month of March: Wednesday through Friday, March 14, 15 and 16, Annual Spring Revival/Lecture Series at 7:30 p.m. each evening.

March 18, Pastor's Anniversary beginning at 11 a.m. service with pastor, Rev. Carl L. Washington, Sr. preaching; 3:30 p.m. services, Dr. Kevin Rogers and New Fellowship Christian Community Church will join in celebration.

Friday and Saturday, March 23 and 24, Spring Retreat of the Possibility Place Christian Ministries focusing on the "Passion Week Encounter" will be held at Baltimore Travel Plaza Quality Inn, 5625 O'Donnell St.

Saturday, March 31, the Young People's Department of Timothy's will sponsor Mother/Daughter Lunch and Fashion Show. Call 944-1719 or 265-5056.