

Mrs. Koger

HISTORY OF THE MACEDONIA BAPTIST CHURCH

1874 - 1964

By
Naomi Stanley Morris
Baltimore, Maryland
1964



Compliments of Naomi Stanley Morris

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DEDICATED TO MY FATHER

Deacon George F. Holmes

and

MY HUSBAND

Deacon Charles Morris

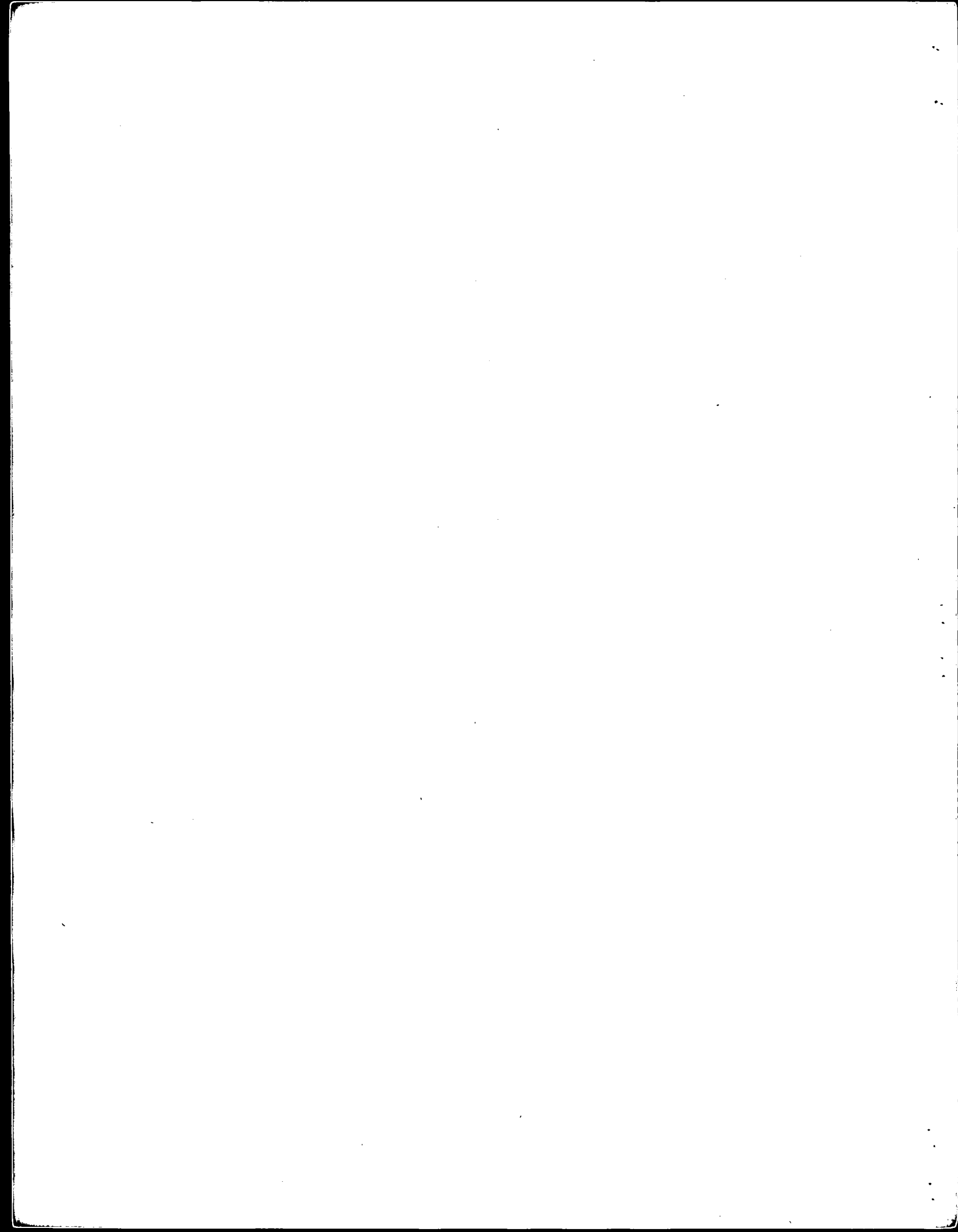


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INTRODUCTION

The story of Macedonia is not easy to relate. None of the members who laid the foundation on which we of this generation have built is alive to fill in the details. If we could but sit at their feet and hear how the Holy Spirit dealt with them! It must be remembered that our founding fathers were just a few years removed from slavery, and their education was very limited. Yet, in spite of these handicaps, they had enough foresight to lay a foundation on which generations unborn may build.

The purpose of this writing is to provide the members of Macedonia with a comprehensive report of the history of our church. The oldest record of meetings of the Deacon Board that the writer could find, dates back to 1901. Mr. Everett Segar was secretary of the Board and Reverend A. B. Callis was pastor. This book was passed on to my father, Deacon George F. Holmes, when he became secretary to the Deacon Board in 1918. The pages are very crisp and brown but the ink is still quite clear and the writing is legible. The importance of retrieving this remarkable history cannot be too emphatically stressed.

Macedonia Baptist Church (daughter of Union Baptist Church), started in a stable in Vincent Street; purchased ground and built a church on Saratoga and Vincent Streets; rebuilt that edifice; then later moved to this impressive building of Gothic architecture at Fremont and Lafayette Avenues. Her missionary work includes the founding of Sharon Baptist Church (known as the daughter church), and also Speed's Memorial Baptist Church in Catonsville, Maryland.

As of this writing (1964), Macedonia Baptist Church is 90 years old. Four pastors have served this church well: Reverend William Charles Lawson, the founder; Reverend Augustus B. Callis; Doctor Daniel Glascoe Mack; and Doctor Willard L. Clayton. Macedonia has been blessed with a succession of ministers of outstanding ability. Their contributions to the continuous growth of Macedonia cannot be measured. Each has brought a unique strength that collectively has accounted for these 90 years of progress.

THE FIRST PASTOR (1874-1893)

William Charles Lawson, the founder and first pastor of Macedonia, was born on May 7, 1836 in Sumpter, S. C. He was the son of Reverend Charles and Louise Lawson. In 1863 W. Charles Lawson came to Baltimore and joined the Union Baptist Church. He became a contractor (digging cellars), and also a dealer in coal and oil. He married in 1865. He and Mrs. Lawson adopted Vincent T. Lawson. There were five grandchildren: Paul Lawson, Professor Charles Lawson of Sumpter, S. C., Annie Brown and Frances Lawson of Philadelphia, and Mrs. Marse Callaway of Baltimore.

From an humble beginning and a limited education, W. Charles Lawson entered the ministry. He saw a need for a Sunday School in West Baltimore. Using his contacts in his business, he encouraged his customers to send their children to the Sunday School that he and others had started in a stable loft in the 200 block of Vincent Street.

On September 29, 1874 (with the approval of Union Baptist Church), this new body was set apart as the Macedonia Baptist Church. Reverend W. Charles Lawson was licensed to preach on November 5, 1874. The congregation grew so rapidly that the new church secured a plot of ground on Saratoga Street at Vincent and built a house of worship at a cost of \$3,000. The building was dedicated on June 24, 1876.

It was during the administration of Reverend W. Charles Lawson that Sharon Baptist Church was founded. Following is an account of the birth of our "daughter church."

On Sunday, September 10, 1882, Mr. Thomas A. Johnson a member of the Macedonia Baptist Church noticed children at play on a lot in Parrish Street. This apparent lack of concern of parents for the religious and moral training of their children, deeply disturbed Mr. Johnson. On the following Sunday, September 17, he returned to Parrish Street with Rev. Charles Lawson, the pastor of Macedonia, Mr. Dock R. Allen, Mr. Louis Major, and Mrs. Eva Thompkins.

With the encouragement of Reverend Lawson, these people organized the children into a Sunday School. Others who assisted were: Mr. James Davis, James I. Lane, Mrs. Boone, Mrs. Millie Davis, and Mrs. Martha Page.

Out of this organization grew the Whatcoat Mission. Evidently it was given this name because the meeting place was an abandoned stable in Whatcoat Street. Reverend William M. Alexander, a State Missionary, joined the Mission. He and nine adults organized into a church on February 5, 1885 with Reverend Alexander as the first pastor. It adopted the name of Sharon Baptist Church and is now situated at Stricker and Presstman Streets.

Thus it can be seen that Reverend W. Charles Lawson served his church and his God to the best of his ability. He is deeply revered because he was a man of vision. God called him to his reward on November 16, 1893.

Note: Vincent Lawson was Rev. Lawson's nephew also.

THE SECOND PASTOR (1894-1903)

Reverend Augustus B. Callis, the second pastor of Macedonia was born in Matthews County, Virginia in 1852. He attended a Quaker School at Yorktown, Virginia. In 1869 Reverend Callis came to Baltimore. Here he attended night school at the First Baptist Church. He also attended the Douglas Institute, in Baltimore. In 1875 he was baptized at the Union Baptist Church by Reverend Harvey Johnson. It was at Maryland Seminary in Washington, D. C. that Reverend A. B. Callis prepared himself for the ministry. In 1884 he completed the Normal and Theological departments with honor. In 1885 he was ordained as a minister at Union Baptist Church, Baltimore, Maryland.

Reverend A. B. Callis married Ella Lively. Of this marriage there were four children: Mattie, Rebecca, Marie, and James. Miss Marie Callis was organist and pianist at Sharon Baptist Church for many years; Miss Rebecca Callis was a housewife; Miss Mattie Callis and Mr. James Callis taught in the Baltimore School System until they retired.

On May 20, 1894 Reverend Augustus B. Callis was elected pastor of the Macedonia Baptist Church. During his early pastorate he led the church in completing the mortgage for the building and ground purchased during the pastorate of Reverend W. Charles Lawson. The membership continued to grow and so it became necessary that a new building be erected on the same site at the cost of \$12,000. Reverend Callis organized the Willing Workers in Macedonia. This group of ladies did missionary work. Mrs. Sallie Merriweather was the chairman.

It was on April 20, 1903 that Reverend A. B. Callis resigned as pastor of Macedonia.

THE THIRD PASTOR (1903-1943)

Daniel Glascoe Mack, the third pastor of the Macedonia Baptist Church was born in St. Mary's County, Maryland. He was the son of Thomas and Betty Mack. He was a graduate of Petersburg Institute, Wayland Seminary (now Union University), located at Richmond, Virginia. Union University later conferred on him the honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity. He was licensed and ordained by the Trinity Baptist Church, Baltimore, Maryland.

On September 13, 1903 Dr. Daniel G. Mack was elected pastor of Macedonia. During his pastorate the membership increased rapidly; many new organizations and choirs were founded; the use of individual communion glasses was initiated (a gift from Mrs. Marie Carter); two men of the church were ordained; Speed's Memorial Baptist Church of Catonsville, Maryland was founded; and Macedonia moved into the beautiful white marble edifice which it occupies at the present time.

The church was in debt when Dr. Mack accepted the pastorate in 1903, but it was soon liquidated. Later the building was remodeled and frescoed at a considerable cost.

In 1904 Dr. D. G. Mack organized the first Ladies Missionary Society in Macedonia. Mrs. Lucy Patterson was elected president. It was in 1905 that Mrs. Eliza Mack became president and she remained in this office until 1924. Mrs. Mack was the wife of the pastor and mother of their four children: Elbert, Glascoe, Dorothy Richard, and Nimrod. She died in 1924.

In 1913 Dr. Mack organized the first Scout Troop in Macedonia. He was one of the first Scout masters in Baltimore.

It was in 1915 that he organized the first Men's Missionary Society. Their purpose was to seek out needy cases and quickly relieve the worthy ones. Dr. Mack was the chairman of this group.

In April 1919 Speed's Memorial Baptist Church in Catonsville, Maryland was built by Macedonia and Rev. Thomas Bagwell was ordained and put in charge by Dr. Mack.

The Baptist Home for the Aged was founded in 1920. ^{In May 1925} Dr. Daniel G. Mack lead the church to its present site at Lafayette and Fremont Avenues. The white marble edifice was purchased from the First Baptist Church (White) at a cost of \$80,000.

On December 10, 1926, at the Macedonia Baptist Church, the United Baptist Missionary Convention of Maryland was officially organized. Dr. Mack was elected the first president. At the first annual session in May 1927, Dr. Mack advocated a reasonable budget and presented a "Forward Movement Program in missionary work. His address was hailed with enthusiastic response.

On December 28, 1927 Dr. Mack married Miss Beatrice Lee of Kilmarnock, Virginia. She proved to be a dedicated worker and she contributed much towards the further advancement of Macedonia.

On June 24, 1941 Dr. D. G. Mack ordained Reverend H. L. Pinn who (after the passing of Dr. Mack in 1943), served as acting pastor of Macedonia. He served from 1943 to 1945.

Dr. Daniel Glascoe Mack served Macedonia and the community in a way that can be described as superb. He used his many talents to the best of his ability. He died on October 9, 1943.

THE FOURTH PASTOR (1945 to the present)

Reverend Willard L. Clayton, the fourth pastor of the Macedonia Baptist Church was born in Westmoreland County, Virginia. He was the son of James and Cora (McKenney) Clayton. His mother died when he was three years old and he was reared by his grandmother. On September 4, 1934 he married Miss Evelyn Morrison. Of this marriage there are four children: Colyn, Carlethea, Laura, and Willard Jr.

Reverend Clayton took his preparatory training for the ministry at Virginia Seminary in Lynchburg, Virginia. He holds the degrees of B. Th. and B. D. from Gordon College and Gordon Divinity School, Boston, Massachusetts. He also studied at Harvard and Boston University.

On January 28, 1926, he was ordained to the Gospel Ministry at the Union Baptist Church in Malden, Massachusetts. He pastored there for twenty years. Doctor Clayton held many positions of distinction during his ministry in Massachusetts. He was President of the Malden Ministerial Conference; Vice-president of the Boston Baptist Ministers Conference; and the second Colored minister to serve as Moderator of the Boston East Association. All of these associations had a membership that was predominantly white. Dr. Clayton was President of the Boston Ministerial Conference; President of the United Baptist Convention of Massachusetts and Rhode Island; and President of the Suburban N. A. A. C. P. He was a member of the Debating Society, the Tuberculosis Association and the Malden Association for Charities. He was the first Colored Counsellor at the Royal Ambassador Camp at Ocean Park, Maine.

On May 17, 1945 Doctor Willard L. Clayton was called to the pastorate of the Macedonia Baptist Church. During his administration the church is moving forward in many areas. The membership continues to increase; many new organizations and choirs have been formed; the church is free of its indebtedness; the church has broadcasted a series of services on the radio; and many community agencies have received our support. His deepest concern is for the young people of the church since it is this group that will have to take up the work of kingdom building when this generation has gone to its reward.

Since accepting the pastorate here in Baltimore he has been President of the United Baptist Convention of Maryland; Vice President of the Baptist Ministers Conference; and a member of the following organizations: Inter-denominational Ministers Conference; Inter-faith Ministerial Brotherhood; Executive Committee of the N. A. A. C. P.; Family and Child Welfare; General Board of the National Council of Churches; and Trustee of Provident Hospital. He has received an honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity from Virginia Seminary in Lynchburg. In 1948 Dr. Clayton ordained Reverend Andrew H. Brown into the gospel ministry. He is now the founder and pastor of the New St. John Baptist Church of Baltimore.

Dr. Clayton keeps the members of Macedonia well informed of what is going on in the local and National Government. He is actively engaged in the fight for Civil Rights both locally and nationally. He was in the "March On Washington" in August 1963, and he encourages the young adults of the church to be more civic minded. He is giving Macedonia the type of leadership that is needed during these crucial times (100 years removed from slavery).

He has accepted the torch from the three pastors that preceded him and is carrying it valiantly to greater heights.

THE ORIGIN AND GROWTH

Armed with a strong faith in God and a dream in their hearts, two men launched out to rescue more souls for Christ. They saw a need for evangelism on the west side of Baltimore. It was on May 24, 1872 that W. Charles Lawson and Leander Jones organized a Sunday School in an old stable loft in the 200 block of Vincent Street. These men were members of the Union Baptist Church (now located on Druid Hill Avenue near Dolphin Street). The congregation that met in the loft evidently showed great possibilities because it was not long before Union Baptist Church accepted this project as a Mission.

On September 24, 1874, in the regular business meeting of the Union Baptist Church, the following resolution was passed and recorded in its minutes: "Resolved that as many of the sisters and brothers as may desire their letters of dismission to form a Mission on Vincent Street, West Baltimore be granted, to be called the Macedonia Baptist Mission". The following received letters: William C. Lawson, Leander Jones, James Lane, George Jones, Samuel Jackson, Robert Price, Mary G. Powell, Samuel W. Washington, Francie Price, Hannah J. Ware, Margaret Jackson, Annie M. Gross, Kate Canida, Amanda Lewis, Ellen Johnson, Mary E. Johnson, Henry Jenkins, Della Parker, Nancy James, Lucinda Evans, Martha Jackson, Mary L. Price, and Effie Jackson.

On September 29, 1874 a meeting was held for the purpose of organizing the Macedonia Baptist Church. The stable had been remodeled by this time. New floors and seats had been provided through the kindness of Mr. G. G. Tyler and others. Many Baptist friends of the white race were invited to witness the organizing of this church. Mr. J. W. Weishampel served as moderator. He explained the Baptist Manual which was unanimously adopted by the twenty-three members who had presented their letters at this meeting. The following men were then elected as Deacons: W. Charles Lawson, Leander Jones, Henry Jenkins, John I. Lane, George Jones, and S. W. Washington, Clerk. Mr. L. Minor recorded these proceedings. Reverend G. W. Saunderlin, pastor of Franklin Square Baptist Church; Reverend Harvey Johnson, pastor of Union Baptist Church; Mr. William H. Homer, Dr. George F. Childs, and Mr. Christopher West, addressed the new church (all were white except Reverend Harvey Johnson).

On November 5, 1874 Macedonia was properly recognized by a council representing nine Baptist Churches and became a member of the Maryland Baptist Union Association. The council also licensed W. Charles Lawson to preach. Under the leadership of Reverend Lawson, the church progressed rapidly. It was not long before a plot of ground was purchased on Saratoga Street near Vincent Street and a new church was erected. This edifice (which cost \$3,000), was dedicated on June 24, 1876. The records show that Mr. William H. Hamer and Mr. Christopher West assisted greatly in this new venture.

In 1882 under the leadership of Reverend Lawson, a Mission was founded in a stable in Whatcoat Street near Laurens Street. The Mission was known as the "Whatcoat Mission". Reverend William M. Alexander, a State Missionary, joined the Mission. On February 5, 1885 Reverend Alexander became the first pastor and six months later moved the church to Laurens and Calhoun Streets. The name was changed to Patterson Avenue Chapel then later to Sharon Baptist Church. Macedonia and Sharon worship together on Thanksgiving Day every year. (It should be noted that Laurens Street was Patterson Avenue).

From May 1894 to April 1903, under the leadership of Reverend Augustus B. Callis, Macedonia continued to move forward. The balance on the \$3,000 mortgage was paid and the membership continued to grow rapidly. In 1896 it became necessary that a new church be erected on the same site at the cost of \$12,000. It was in 1894 that the first known organization of women of the church was organized. It is believed that this group was interested in missionary work. It was called, "The Willing Workers". The first organization for the young people of the church was the Macedonia Protective Association organized in 1901.

From September 1903 to October 1943 Macedonia's history is quite illustrious. Under the pastorate of Reverend Daniel Glascoe Mack, the church's influence in the community grew rapidly. In 1904 a Missionary Society was formed by the pastor. In 1913 one of the first Boy Scout Troops in the city was organized by Reverend D. G. Mack. He was also the group's first Scout Master. Around 1915 the girls of the church between ages 9 and 12 were organized as the Camp Fire Girls with Mrs. Eliza Mack as their leader. Macedonia was given a plot of ground at Roberts Avenue and Winters Lane in Catonsville, Maryland by Mr. C. C. Speed. A church was built on this site and it was named, "Speed's Memorial Baptist Church. Reverend Thomas Bagwell was ordained by Macedonia and put in charge of this Mission in 1919. The church was sold in 1930 to the Morning Star Baptist Church of Catonsville. It was in 1920 that a Home for the Aged was founded by a small group of Baptist ministers. Reverend Mack was one of the founders and Macedonia donated \$1,000 to this new venture. By 1923 the membership of the Macedonia Baptist Church had expanded to the point that it was necessary to put extra chairs in the aisles. The pastor and officers deemed it necessary to find a larger place of worship. It was in December 1923 that the down payment of \$5,000 was made on the present church and in January 1925 the second payment of \$7,000 was made. The building was purchased from the First Baptist Church (White) at a cost of \$80,000.00. It is located at Lafayette and Fremont Avenues.

In May 1925, under the leadership of Reverend Daniel G. Mack, the members of Macedonia marched into their present sanctuary. There was great rejoicing among the pastor, officers, and members when that first service of worship was held in this white marble edifice with its tall steeple pointing towards the heavens. As the members sat in solemn meditation and cast their eyes around this beautiful building, they could not help but shed tears of joy. Evidently many of them were reflecting on the source from which Macedonia had come. From a lowly stable loft to one of the largest and most beautiful churches in Baltimore, Maryland.

The pastor, officers, and members worked diligently towards liquidating this indebtedness. Many made pledges of \$50.00 and more a year along with their usual weekly pledges. Other money-raising projects were put into effect each year. Through fervent prayers and the will to keep our church, the members struggled against great odds to meet the enormous obligation. They worked under a terrific handicap because a nation-wide depression started a few years after this new venture was begun.

In October 1943 (following the death of Reverend D. G. Mack) the Deacon Board organized itself as a "Pulpit Committee". Deacon George F. Holmes was elected chairman. Its purpose was to supply the pulpit with a minister each Sunday. The committee served well until January 1944. There was never a Sunday when a minister was not there to preach. Reverend Harry L. Penn was appointed acting pastor from November 1943 to April 1945.

On December 8, 1943, the Deacons and Trustees of Macedonia held a joint meeting. It was imperative that a chairman be elected for each Board. Deacon Charles Morris and Trustee John H. Nicholas were recommended to the church as chairmen of their respective Boards. At the church meeting in January 1944 they were appointed to this position. Each of them is serving in this capacity as of this writing (1964).

On February 7, 1944 a Ways and Means Committee was organized by the officers of the church for the purpose of planning ways of raising money towards the mortgage. This committee consisted of two representatives from each organization of the church. Mrs. Fannie E. Gilles was appointed chairman and Mrs. Martha B. Pulley, co-chairman. Other officers were: Mrs. Naomi Stanley Morris, recording secretary; Mrs. Lilly Stevenson, financial secretary; Mrs. Reita Taylor, treasurer; Mr. Ollie Louden, chaplain; and Mr. George H. Hanks, chorister. Their theme was: "Let Jesus Lead Us". Many activities were planned by the committee and carried to a successful conclusion by the organizations of the church and this committee. They raised \$3,247.45 toward the mortgage. After the mortgage was paid, this committee was the first group to contribute towards the Renovation Program.

During the crucial period when Macedonia had no pastor, a meeting was held with the Deacon and Trustee Boards of the First Baptist Church (White), and the following officers of Macedonia: Deacons Charles Morris, chairman; George F. Holmes, secretary; and Daniel Ringgold - Trustees John H. Nicholas, chairman; William C. Russell, financial secretary; and William W. Taylor, Treasurer. Trustee John H. Nicholas was the spokesman. It was through the efforts of our officers that the First Baptist Church helped Macedonia to save \$10,658.85 through bonuses and refunds on the mortgage. The balance then due on the church was \$52,633.38. On June 15, 1945 a parsonage was purchased by the church.

On May 17, 1945 Reverend Willard L. Clayton was elected to the pastorate of the Macedonia Baptist Church. During his early administration he introduced a very unique plan for paying off the mortgage and also renovating the church. It was to complete the mortgage in 1946, renovate the outside of the building in 1947, remodel the interior in 1948, and celebrate the Diamond Jubilee in 1949. The members knew that God had heard their prayers and had sent Reverend Clayton to Macedonia. Everything that he asked or suggested that the members should do, he did also. This was the kind of spiritual leadership that the church needed and this was the leadership that he gave. The new approach worked out as planned. The mortgage was burned on October 25, 1946; the exterior of the church was painted, repaired, and sand blasted in 1947; the interior was renovated in 1948. The "pay-as-you-go" plan was followed. In 1949 there was great rejoicing at the Diamond Jubilee of Macedonia. A dream had finally been realized.

Since Reverend Calyton took over the pastorate of Macedonia many new organizations have been formed and some old ones have been revived. These include: Parsonage Committee, Johnson - Watts Nurses Unit, Cradle Roll, Deaconesses, 1949 Club, Boys' Club, Girl Scouts, Filing Committee, Pastor's Aid, Teacher Training Class, Boys' Scouts, Youth Choir, Kaye Burke Chancel Choir, Social Action Committee, Matrons Club, Social Welfare Club, Junior Missionaries, Mens Chorus, Baptist Youth Council and the Vacation Bible School Committee. Most of these organizations and committees are still active.

Under the leadership of Reverend Willard L. Clayton, Macedonia has broadcasted a series of services via radio; our pastor has served on many panels and other programs on television; the choirs and organizations of the church have brought cheer to patients in hospitals of the city; inmates of penal institutions have been remembered each year; and our church has always shown concern for the welfare of humanity, especially those who are being exploited. Macedonians are active in the present fight for Civil Rights.

The church boasts of a membership of over 750.

THE DEACON BOARD

The history of the Deacon Board dates back to the founding of Macedonia Baptist Church. One of the first deacons became the first pastor. On the day that Macedonia was set apart, Brothers W. Charles Lawson, Leander Jones, Henry Jenkins, John I. Lane, Samuel Washington, Samuel Jackson, and George Jones, Clerk, were elected to the Deacon Board. Others who have served on the Board are: Isaah P. Patterson, Everett Seger, Charles B. Cook, Thomas Boyd, William Johnson, Sandy Moody, John L. Wheeler, David Washington, George Hanks, Peter T. Stevens, Richard Moulton, J. H. Hooker, Nathaniel Snell, Samuel Wise, Anderson Simmons, Reverend Andrew Brown, Thomas Henderson, Charles King, Sheridan Jones, Nelson Burrell, Henry Brown, James Johnson, and Bethel Perkins.

In October 1943 (following the death of Reverend D. G. Mack), the Deacon Board organized itself as a "Pulpit Committee". Deacon George F. Holmes was elected chairman. The purpose was to supply the pulpit with a minister each Sunday. The committee served well until January 1944. The members of the Board at that time were: George F. Holmes, Charles Morris, Reverend Andrew H. Brown, Daniel Ringgold, Bethel Perkins, Thomas Henderson, Sheridan Jones, Nelson Burrell, David Washington, John L. Wheeler, Ollie Nichols, Mack Whiting and Anthony Carter.

In January 1944 Deacon Charles Morris was appointed chairman of the Deacon Board. This was the first time that the Deacons of Macedonia ever had a chairman. He is still serving in this capacity as of this writing.

During the eighteen months when the church had no pastor, Deacon Charles Morris was the moderator at all church meetings. Through his calm and efficient leadership and with the splendid cooperation of the Deacon Board, the pulpit was supplied each Sunday until Reverend Willard L. Clayton was elected as pastor. The morale of the members remained in tact because of the prayerful guidance of the Deacons. Their loyalty to the church during that period shall always be cherished. Their mastery over every situation showed their unshakened faith in God.

The present Deacon Board consists of: Charles Morris, Chairman; Daniel Ringgold, secretary; Ollie Nichols, Allison Johnson, Horace Johnson, Albert Dunton, William Anderson, Clarence White, Joseph Davis, John Robinson, Dr. Louis Johnson, James Hanks, Eugene Barbour, Allen Taylor, and George F. Holmes who was made a Deacon in 1915 and is still serving as of this writing (1964).

THE TRUSTEE BOARD

In 1874, when the Macedonia Baptist Church was founded, the Deacons with the pastor served as Trustees also. On the certificate of Incorporation, the same men who were members of the Deacon Board also signed with the pastor as Trustees. They were: W. Charles Lawson, Leander Jones, Samuel Jackson, Samuel Washington, Henry Jenkins, George Jones, and James Lane.

The exact year when the first Trustee Board was formed is not known. Among those who have served as Trustees are: John W. Carter (Clerk of the board for many years), Horace Johnson, Jerry Lewis, William E. Johnson, Bascomb H. Henderson, Henry Davis, William W. Johnson, Philip P. Thompkins, Samuel Harris, Sheridan Jones, Allison Johnson, J. W. Taylor, Henry Ringgold, Maurice Moore, Allen W. Taylor, Lloyd H. Butler, Robert S. Hill, Walter Gresham, William W. Taylor, William C. Russell, John Epps and Mrs. Gladys Augustus.

In January 1944 Mr. John H. Nicholas was appointed chairman of the Trustee Board. This was the first time that the Trustees of Macedonia ever had a chairman. He is still serving in this capacity as of this writing.

During the eighteen months when the church had no elected pastor, the Trustees (under the efficient leadership of John H. Nicholas), worked diligently towards managing the church's financial obligations.

The efficiency of our Trustees has been demonstrated since Macedonia was founded. Each house of worship has been paid for and improved during our occupancy. Financial records have always been above reproach.

The present Trustees are: John H. Nicholas, Chairman; Herman Handy, financial secretary; John G. McNair, church treasurer, George Johnson, Fred Gundy, Samuel Brock, John G. Taylor, Milton Robinson, Robert Pettigrew, Leroy Thompson, Jesse Williams, Chandler Taylor, Leon Bates, Mrs. Lottie Mapp, Mrs. Orangie Epps, and Mrs. Carlene Gundy.

THE DEACONESSES

The Deaconesses were set apart by Reverend Willard L. Clayton on October 3, 1947 and installed on November 9, 1947. The purposes of the organization are: to serve wherever and whenever needed; to assist the Deacons in visiting the sick and shut-ins; and to care for the female candidates for baptism.

The first officers were: Mrs. Cornelia Ringgold, Chairman; Mrs. Jessie Morris, Co-chairman; Mrs. Floretta Brown, Secretary; Mrs. Anna Perkins, Assistant Secretary; and Mrs. Alma Nichols, Treasurer.

One of their projects was the making of aprons and quilts for the needy.

The present Deaconesses are: Mrs. Cornelia Ringgold, Chairman; Mrs. Edna Dunton, Secretary; Mrs. Anna Perkins, Mrs. Alma Nichols, Mrs. Pearl Johnson, Mrs. Annie Johnson, Mrs. Lalia Tuck, Mrs. Lillian Maith, Mrs. Lola White, Mrs. Gladys Robinson, Mrs. Ann Barbour, Mrs. Odessa Davis, Mrs. Katherine Hanks, Mrs. Devilla Jones, and Mrs. Georgette Frazier.

Mrs. Gertrude Johnson who now lives in Virginia, and Mrs. Annie Green (deceased), also served as Deaconesses.

OTHER OFFICIALS OF MACEDONIA

According to the Constitution of the Macedonia Baptist Church (Article I - Section I), "the officers shall be a Bishop or Pastor, Deacons, Trustees, a Clerk, a Treasurer, a Financial Secretary and an Assistant Financial Secretary. . . ."

This history of Macedonia would not be complete if the names of those who served in the following official capacities were not mentioned.

1. Treasurers:

Henry Davis, George F. Holmes (for 20 years), William W. Taylor, William C. Russell, and John G. McNair.

2. Financial Secretaries:

John W. Carter, William C. Russell, and Herman Handy

3. Assistant Financial Secretary:

Mrs. Viola Bagwell Coates

4. Church Clerks:

S. W. Washington, Joseph H. Patterson, Clarence Johnson, James Fisher, and Mrs. Lottie Mapp

5. Secretaries of the Deacon Board:

Everett Seger, George F. Holmes (31 years), and Daniel Ringgold

It was the efficient manner in which these men and women carried out their assignments that helped Macedonia to constantly move forward for 90 years.

ORGANIZATIONS OF THE MACEDONIA BAPTIST CHURCH

Most of the members of Macedonia are affiliated with a Department, an Organization, a Committee, or a Choir. It is this unified arrangement that helps to "bind the ties" that hold Macedonia together. Through the organizational process the members get acquainted with each other and their church membership is more meaningful.

During the 90 years of Macedonia's existence, 34 organizations have been founded. As of this writing 23 of them are still functioning. On the pages to follow, an account is given of all of the organizations. It is hoped that those which are not in operation at this writing, will be revived where feasible.

THE CHURCH SCHOOL

The Macedonia Church-School antedates the church. Through the efforts of Mr. W. Charles Lawson, the school first opened in a stable in the 200 block Vincent Street in May 1872. As a dealer in coal and oil he used his contacts in business to encourage his customers to send their children to his Mission. He encouraged the children to attend each Sunday by giving them candy after service.

In 1874 when Reverend Lawson was licensed to preach and also elected as the pastor of Macedonia, he placed Mr. Vincent Lawson in charge of the Church-School. Other superintendents were: Mr. Everett Seger, Mr. James Bias, Reverend Daniel G. Mack, Mr. William C. Russell, Mr. William Johnson, Mr. Thomas Jones, Mrs. Devallis Banks, Mrs. Gladys Augustus, Mr. Leslie Gundy, and Mrs. Emma Trott. Mrs. Arlene White is the superintendent as of this writing.

For many years there were two sessions in the Church-School, one in the morning and the other in the afternoon. The Cradle Roll was founded by Mrs. Jennie Mason about 1924. Mrs. Inez Johnson, her daughter, took over this department when Mrs. Mason's health failed.

In 1947 the Cradle Roll was re-organized by Mrs. Viola Gundy. Mr. Fred Gundy has transported the little children to the Church-School from 1947 to the present time (1964).

Others who have served in administrative capacities in the Church-School are: Mr. Nelson Burrell, Mrs. Fannie E. Gilles, Mr. George Hanks, Mr. Earl Anderson, Mrs. Rosie Holly, Miss Ann Nelson, Mrs. Nancy Middleton, Mr. John McNair, Reverend Leander Brown, Mrs. Jeannette Washington, Mrs. Kearon Johnson, and Mr. Leslie Gundy.

Mrs. Sally Merriweather was the first pianist for the Church-School. Mrs. Fannie E. Gilles succeeded her on September 6, 1903. She retired as pianist in February 1948. The present pianist is Miss Linda Wharton.

In March 1960 Reverend Willard L. Clayton organized the Christian Educational Guidance Committee of the Church-School. The purpose of this committee is to make a study of the various kinds of Church-School literature that is on the market; select the kind that would best meet the needs of our children; and recommend it to the Church-School Workers Conference. In 1963 the Church-School changed its curriculum from the Uniform Lessons to the Graded System published by The American Baptist Publication Society.

The committee members are: Mrs. Naomi Morris, Chairman; Mrs. Emma Trott, Mrs. Lillian Maith, Deacon Allen Taylor, Mr. George Hanks, Mrs. Devallis Banks, Mrs. Naomi Evans, Mrs. Viola Gundy, Mrs. Marrian Washington, Miss Edith Carter, Mr. John McNair, and Mrs. Velvo Ingram.

THE LADIES MISSIONARY DEPARTMENT

In 1894, during the pastorate of Reverend A. B. Callis, a group of ladies were set apart as "The Willing Workers". Mrs. Sally Merriweather was the chairman.

In 1904 Reverend D. G. Mack organized the first Ladies Missionary Society in Macedonia. The first officers were: Mrs. Lucy Patterson, President; Mrs. Robinette Gresham, Vice-president; Mrs. Fannie Gresham Gilles, Financial and Corresponding Secretary; Mrs. Etta Seger Cawthorne, Recording Secretary; and Mrs. Maggie Lakeman, Treasurer.

In 1905 Mrs. Eliza Mack (the first wife of Reverend D. G. Mack), became the second president of the Missionary Society. During her administration a very stimulating program was carried out. The Annual Woman's Day, Queens Rallies and Bazaars were looked forward to with great anticipation. The annual pre-Thanksgiving dinner became a tradition. Mrs. Mack organized the Camp Fire Girls, an organization that was a fore-runner to the Girl Scouts.

Other presidents of the Missionary Society were: Mrs. Ella Parks, Mrs. Lucy Cook, Mrs. Maude Clark, and Mrs. Wilhelmina Vincent.

Mrs. Evelyn F. Clayton (wife of Reverend W. L. Clayton), is the President of the Missionary Society as of this writing. Mrs. Lottie Mapp is the Vice-president. A Junior Missionary Society was organized during Mrs. Clayton's administration. The Missionary Society now operates through committees. They are: Social, Program, Benevolent, Membership, Visiting, and Sick Committees.

The Missionary Society's projects include: Foreign Missions; Woman's Day; distribution of baskets to the needy and also the shut-ins at Christmas; visiting the sick; taking gifts to patients in hospitals and other institutions; and working actively in the Convention.

In 1963 the Missionary Society changed its name to Missionary Department. The most recent project is visiting the homes of the people in the neighborhood and hereby establishing a better rapport between the church and the community. The needs of the people can be discovered through these visits and the Missionaries can render the necessary help. This new project is called "Visitation Evangelism". This idea is very new at this writing, but it sounds like it has great possibilities.

The Missionary Hour and the Nursery Project have proved to be quite effective also. Mrs. Clayton and the members of the Missionary Department are doing a splendid service for Macedonia.

THE MALE USHER BOARD

In the early history of Macedonia, the Deacons were responsible for ushering. It was in 1893 that Mr. John W. Carter and Mr. Henry Davis started the first Usher Board. It was not until 1914, through the untiring efforts of Mr. Thomas Jones that the Male Usher Board was duly recognized. Mr. Jones served as the president from 1914 to 1928.

Other presidents have been: Mr. Elmer Imes (1928-1946), Mr. John Brogden, Mr. Elmer Harris, and Mr. Obie Allen. Mr. Allen is the President as of this writing. He began in 1961. *Mr. Walter Carter also served as president.*

The ushers have served well all through the years. Early in 1964 a new procedure was adopted for taking the offering. That is, from the rear of the church to the front. This system has proved very effective.'

THE LADIES USHER BOARD

The Ladies Usher Board of the Macedonia Baptist Church was organized on May 3, 1926 by Mrs. Frankie C. Beatty. The first Women ushers in Macedonia were: Mrs. Frankie Beatty, Elizabeth Brown, Annie Green, Lula Collins, Roberta Brown, Mary T. Clark, Rebecca Holmes, Missouri Tucker, Lillian Washington, Mary Henderson, Ella Montague, Iva G. Johnson, Mary Wheeler,

Virginia Shields, Katie Johnson, Carrie Hill, Ethel Forbes, Adelaide Levy, Marion Croxton, and Helen Lanier.

Mrs. Beatty served well until she resigned on April 7, 1930. Mrs. Roberta Henderson Norris was President from July 4, 1930 to February 6, 1933; Mrs. Mary Henderson served from July 3, 1934 to July 1935 and Mrs. Bertha Johnson was President from July 1935 to 1938.

Mrs. Lucy Imes, the fifth President of the Ladies Usher Board, served well for 24 years. During her administration the ushers began wearing hats with their uniforms. The first Female Junior Usher Board in Macedonia was organized by her. After 24 years of faithful and efficient service, Mrs. Imes resigned in 1962.

Mrs. Bertha Fisher succeeded Mrs. Lucy Imes. In October 1962 she was appointed the sixth president of the Usher Board. She is doing a commendable job.

THE JUNIOR USHER BOARD

The first Male Junior Usher Board in the Macedonia Baptist Church was organized by Mr. Elmer Imes in 1942. Among its Presidents were: Daniel Dixon, Leonard Simmons, and Curtis Baskerville.

The first Female Junior Usher Board was organized by Mrs. Lucy Imes in 1944. Miss Gloria Gardner (Ashby) assisted Mrs. Imes in organizing the girls. She was also the first president.

In April 1949 the two Junior Usher Board merged. The officers were: Miss Delores Pindle (Sample) President; Mr. Jesse Sample, Vice-president; Miss Doris Gwynn, Recording Secretary; Mrs. Lucy Imes and Mrs. Edna Ringgold were supervisors.

On Ushers Day this group of young people served as the Junior Usher Board choir for several years. Mrs. Lucy Imes organized this choir and it was the first Children's Choir of Macedonia.

Mrs. Georgia Brown became supervisor of the Junior Usher Board following the resignation of Mrs. Lucy Imes. Mrs. Brown served faithfully until her health failed.

Eugene Moore (grandson of Mrs. Georgia Brown), took over the management of the Junior Ushers during her illness. He served well until ill health prevented him from working with the group.

Mrs. Willie Mae Perry re-organized the Junior Usher Board in 1963. Mrs. Zelma Pettigrew is her assistant. The Junior Ushers have served Macedonia well from 1942 until the present time.

THE FLOWER CIRCLE

In 1917 at the request of Mrs. Wilhelmina Vincent and Mrs. Lettie Hooker, Reverend D. G. Mack organized a group known as the "Pulpit Committee". Mrs. Lettie Hooker was the first president. In 1920 Mrs. Marie Carter became the second president. Under her administration the name "Flower Circle" was adopted and several changes were made in the work of the organization. After twenty-two years of loyal service Mrs. Carter tendered her resignation. Other presidents have been: Mrs. Orangie Epps and Mrs. Viola Gundy. The president at this writing is Mrs. Pearl Pindle.

The Flower Circle takes great pride in beautifying the pulpit with flowers each Sunday. They also decorate for various organizations of the church. After the Sunday services, the bouquets are shared with the pastor and the sick of the church.

THE LADIES GUILD

Mrs. Roberta Henderson Norris, founder of the Ladies Guild, called together a group of ladies on June 9, 1941 for the purpose of organizing a Guild. The purpose was to assist the church in paying for fuel. The first officers and members were: Mrs. Lilly Stevenson, President; Mrs. Naomi Stanley Morris, Vice-president; Mrs. Marie Walker Hinton, Recording Secretary; Mrs. Velvo Ingram, Financial Secretary; and Mrs. Beatrice Lancaster, Treasurer. Other members were: Mrs. Dellaphine Warrington, Mrs. Marione Croxton, Mrs. Marthetta Ralls, Mrs. Olivia Bates, Mrs. Orangie Epps, and Mrs. Consuella Mapp.

The most unique programs that have been sponsored by the Guild are: the Mothers Day Program and the Candle-light Service. It was through these services that recognition was given to the senior members of the church who have given of their time and talents to the furtherance of God's program. Mrs. Lillie Stevenson is the originator of the Candle-light services at Christmas time.

The Girl Scout and Brownie Troop which was started in January 1947; furnishing a room at the Home for the Aged; the donation of a medicine cart plus cash contributions to Provident Hospital, and gifts to patients at Crownsville and Montebello Hospitals are other constructive projects engaged in by the Guild.

Other presidents of the Ladies Guild have been: Mrs. Naomi Stanley Morris, ~~Mrs. Marie Walker Hinton~~, Mrs. Orangie Epps, Miss Bessie Anderson, Mrs. Olivia Bates, Mrs. Carlene Gundy, Mrs. Elmer Deans, Mrs. Beatrice Lancaster, Mrs. Velvo Ingram, and Mrs. Odessa Davis, *Mrs. Naomi Evans, Mrs. Gladys Augustus, and Mrs. Dorothy Joyner as of Sept. 1964.*

W. CHARLES LAWSON BIBLE CLASS

A group of dedicated members of Macedonia met at the church on September 18, 1940 for the purpose of organizing a Bible Class. The organizer and instructor of the group was Reverend Isaac C. Reddie. This organization was named for the founder and first pastor of Macedonia, Reverend W. Charles Lawson. It was believed that each member would exemplify the highest type of character as the first leader possessed. Mrs. Bertha Taylor was the first Secretary and Mr. Ollie Loudon was the first Treasurer. Miss Ann Nelson was the second Secretary and Mrs. Viola Dunham, Treasurer.

The inspiration received in the Bible Class was attributed to its organizer and instructor Reverend Isaac C. Reddie. It was his belief that much of the chaos in the world is due to the fact that people have not fully realized and accepted the need for continued prayerful Bible study.

MEN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY

The first Men's Missionary Society was organized by Reverend D. G. Mack in 1915. Their work was limited to the church and surrounding community. The members checked on needy cases and quickly gave them necessary assistance.

The officers were: Reverend D. G. Mack, Chairman; Deacon Charles B. Cook, Vice-chairman; Reverend J. W. Taylor, Treasurer; Elmer Imes, Financial Secretary; J. H. Patterson, Recording Secretary; Deacon George F. Holmes, Assistant Secretary; and Thomas F. Jones, Corresponding Secretary.

THE MEN'S CLUB

The first Men's Club of the Macedonia Baptist Church was organized on October 18, 1933 with twenty-three members. The purpose was to promote the welfare of the church through financial and cultural activities. The first officers were: William C. Russell, President; Fred W. Gundy, Vice-president; John H. Nicholas, Secretary; George F. Holmes, Treasurer; and William Warren, Chaplain. The third Sunday in June was set apart as Men's Day.

After a few years of inactivity, the Men's Club was re-organized in August 1944. From 1944 to 1949 the organization raised \$10,838.84 for the church.

In 1947 a Boys Club was organized by the church and sponsored by the Men's Club. Recreational activities were planned for them by Mr. Earl Anderson, coach and Mr. James Moore as assistant coach.

Other men who have served as presidents of the Men's Club are: Leslie Gundy, Daniel Ringgold, Allen Ashby, and Joseph Davis who was appointed in 1964.

JUNIOR MISSIONARY SOCIETY

The first Junior Missionary Society of the Macedonia Baptist Church was organized on June 10, 1943 by Reverend Daniel G. Mack. Miss Thelma Catlin (Bines) was the first president. Mrs. Beatrice Mack and Mrs. Mable Moore were counsellors. Their motto was: "Plan your work and work your plan".

In June 1946 the Junior Missionary Society was re-organized by our pastor, Reverend Willard L. Clayton. Mrs. Edna Dunton was president and Mrs. Pearl Pindle was supervisor. The members made Christmas baskets for the patients of City Hospitals. The group was active in programs in the church and also in the State Convention.

THE NURSES UNIT

The Nurses Unit of the Macedonia Baptist Church was organized on November 5, 1946 by Dr. Louis Johnson, at the request of Reverend W. L. Clayton. The members of the Nurses Unit took a course in anatomy which was taught by Dr. Louis Johnson. Mr. Nelson of the Red Cross, taught a course in First Aid. These courses covered a period of six weeks. Thirteen members received their Red Cross pins.

The Nurses give invaluable service to members of the church. They give their services to the sick, shut-ins, and bereaved.

Through the assistance of Dr. Louis Johnson, the Nurses purchased a medicine cabinet. An "Emergency Room" has been set-up in the church. This room was completely equipped by Dr. Louis Johnson.

The Nurses Unit adopted the name Johnson-Watts Nurses Unit in 1963. Mrs. Nellie Watts has served as president since 1946.

THE SHOWER CIRCLE

The Shower Circle of the Macedonia Baptist Church was founded by Mrs. Beatrice Mack (wife of Reverend D. G. Mack), in 1928. The name "Shower Circle" originated from a Rain Rally sponsored by the group. The members were to pay five cents for each shower which occurred during the month of April. The thirty members pledged themselves to support the church in every way possible. Many religious plays were given by the Shower Circle. Mrs. Mack, the first president, was very talented in this area.

In 1944 the Shower Circle was granted permission by the church to publish Bulletins for the members. This became a weekly publication which informed the membership of Macedonia of important developments. This was the first time that the church had a bulletin. It was called the "M-B-C Broadcasting".

Mrs. Beatrice Mack resigned as president of the Shower Circle and chairman of the Bulletin on July 7, 1947. The members deeply regretted losing her as their president and missed her efficient guidance. The Shower Circle has contributed much spiritually and financially to Macedonia and to institutions in the community.

Other presidents have been: Mrs. Mary G. Lee, Mrs. Estelle Dawson, Mrs. Reita Taylor, Mrs. Georgette Frazier, and Mr. Leslie Gundy is the president as of this writing.

THE PARSONAGE COMMITTEE

The Parsonage Committee of Macedonia was founded by Mrs. Mercedia Arrington in 1945. There was a definite need for this committee because Reverend Clayton and his family came to Baltimore from Malden, Massachusetts. The purpose, therefore, was to help the family adjust to a strange environment as quickly as possible.

The laundry was done once a week and paid for by the Parsonage Committee. Whenever assistance was needed with the housework the members readily volunteered. This committee functioned faithfully until the pastor and his family had become sufficiently adjusted.

B. Y. P. U.

In 1901, through the efforts of Mrs. Rebecca Owens and others, an organization known as the Macedonia Protective Association was founded. The group met at the home of Mrs. Lucy Imes. Mrs. Rebecca Owens was elected president. The purpose of the organization was to keep up the interest of the young people of our church.

In October 1906 the M. P. A. was re-organized by Reverend D. G. Mack as the B. Y. P. U. Mr. Lewis Williams was its first president. Others who have served in this capacity are: Mr. John W. Carter, James W. Taylor, James E. Bias, William Allen Pettigrew, Mr. Elmer Imes, Mr. Herbert Imes, Mrs. Mattie Armstrong, Mrs. Nellie Watts, Mrs. Estelle Dawson, Mr. Chandler Taylor, and Mr. Daniel E. Dixon.

Mr. Herbert Imes started the "Bible Verse Contest" which created a great interest in the study of the Bible by our young people.

Mrs. Mattie Armstrong started the first Negro History Day service in Macedonia and in the city.

Mrs. Ruth Taylor was the pianist for the B. Y. P. U. for many years.

SOCIAL WELFARE CLUB

The Social Welfare Club was organized by Reverend Willard L. Clayton in 1949. There were families in the church and in the community in dire need of help. Some of them were destitute because of unemployment, some were victims of devastating fires, and some had been deserted by their mates.

Mrs. Roberta Henderson Norris was president of this club. The group did what they could for the needy without any publicity.

THE FILING COMMITTEE

The Filing Committee of the Macedonia Baptist Church was organized in 1945 with Mr. John H. Nicholas as chairman. The work of this committee includes filing and distributing the contribution boxes. The members also prepare the pledge cards enclosed in each box. Each Macedonian makes a weekly pledge as to how much he will pay towards the current expenses and the benevolent treasury. These pledge cards are kept on file by the Trustees. A special room has been equipped for this work.

Members of the filing committee are: Mrs. Emma Dorsey, Mrs. Florence Simpson, Mrs. Zelma Pettigrew, Mrs. Hannah McNair, John G. McNair and Mrs. Laurene Handy; Mrs. Bessie Nicholas also served faithfully on this committee from 1945 until she passed in 1963.

THE PASTOR'S AID SOCIETY

The First Pastor's Aid Society was organized by Reverend D. G. Mack with Mrs. Jennie Mason as chairman. The purpose of the organization was to help raise vacation funds. Mrs. Mason served well until ill health caused her to resign. In 1929 Mrs. Lucy Thomas succeeded Mrs. Mason and served until her death. With her passing, the organization was dissolved.

In 1945 the Pastor's Aid Society was re-organized by Mrs. Cordelia Johnson and Mrs. Pearl Catlin. Mrs. Cordelia Johnson was the first president and Mrs. Pearl Catlin was vice-president. The purpose was to help supply the needs of the pastor and his family. Mrs. Edna Dunton was the second president. The organization contributed much to the pastor, his family, and the church office. It was dissolved in 1961.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

On the suggestion of Reverend Willard L. Clayton, a Vacation Bible School was started in 1958. The purpose was to provide wholesome recreational activities for the children of the church and the community at the close of school. This Vacation Bible School usually opens one week after the close of school and operates for two weeks.

Some of the members who have taken the leadership in this project are: Mrs. Velvo Ingram, Mrs. Evelyn Clayton, Mrs. Gladys Augustus, Mrs. Marie Hinton, and Mr. Wallace Baden. With the assistance of other workers, a very worthwhile program has been carried out.

The children of the community look forward to the opening of the Vacation Bible School with great expectations.

THE BOY SCOUTS

The first Boy Scout Troop of Macedonia was one of the first troops in Baltimore. Reverend Daniel Glascoe Mack organized and equipped the boys in May, 1913. He was their Scout Master for a number of years. Since his resignation, the following men were among our scout leaders: Mr. Rufus Pinckney, Mr. Carlton Smith, Mr. Herbert Imes, and Mr. Carl McKinney.

From 1932 to 1949 Mr. Herbert Imes was the scout leader. Through his loyal efforts our Troop earned five Eagles in 1940, the highest award for scouts. In 1946 Mr. Imes received the Scout Master's Key for his outstanding work among the scouts of the city. *Mr. Curtis Baskerville assisted Mr. Imes.*

Mr. Carl McKinney succeeded Mr. Imes as scout master. Mr. William Carter and Mr. Albert Dunton were counselors.

In 1964 Mr. Alvin Rogers revived the Boy Scouts of our church. At this writing the Men's Club (under the leadership of Mr. Joseph Davis), is co-operating with Mr. Rogers. The boys are picked up at the church on every Friday evening and taken to the Y. M. C. A. for a recreational program.

THE GIRL SCOUTS AND BROWNIES

In January 1947 the Ladies Guild organized a Girl Scout and Brownie Troop. Mrs. Naomi Stanley Morris, president of the Guild, consulted Dr. Delores Hunt concerning the organizing of a Girl Scout Troop. Dr. Hunt accepted the challenge enthusiastically and joined the Guild.

Dr. Delores Hunt and Mrs. Consuella Mapp became leader and assistant leader respectively. After taking "Tenderfoot," they were registered on April 15, 1947 as Troop 545. In 1948 Miss Bessie Anderson served as assistant and in 1949 she became the second leader of the Troop.

Mrs. Beatrice Lancaster and Mrs. Velvo Ingram were leader and assistant respectively, of the Brownie Troop.

The other members of the Ladies Guild cooperated with the leaders in putting over an interesting and exciting program. Some of the activities included: hikes, camp-outs, celebration of Girl Scout Week and Nurses aides at Provident Hospital. Miss Bessie Anderson permitted the girls to camp-out at her private camp site.

The Girl Scout program was discontinued because there were not enough women in the church who could assist the Ladies Guild with the project.

THE MATRONS CLUB

The Matrons Club, a branch of the Missionary Department, was founded by Mrs. Evelyn F. Clayton (wife of Reverend W. L. Clayton). It was organized in 1960. Mrs. Clayton saw a need for maintaining the interest of the young mothers in the Missionary Department. Mrs. Dorothy McKinney was the first president. Mrs. Arlene White the second president, is serving as of this writing.

A nursery has been equipped by the members of the Matrons Club. They take charge of babies and children of pre-school age during the 11 a. m. worship service. Parents of the very young find this service very helpful.

SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE

Macedonia has always exhibited grave concern for the welfare of the people in local and national affairs. The Civil Rights Issue is an issue that requires concerted effort on the part of all minority groups. It is imperative that Macedonians take a stand and be counted among those who are determined to keep alert to what is going on in our city, state, and nation and to do all that we can to help right a wrong that has existed for 100 years.

It was on this premise that Reverend Willard L. Clayton organized a Social Action Committee. Dr. Robert L. Gill, professor of Political Science at Morgan State College is chairman of this committee. Members of the Social Action Committee, Reverend Clayton, and many members of Macedonia participated in the historic "March on Washington" on August 28, 1963. This committee also advises the church on such matters as sending telegrams and letters to our Senators and Congressmen in Washington urging them to vote for the Civil Rights Bill. Helping to improve our local laws so that minority groups may achieve full citizenship is also the work of this committee.

The members include; Dr. Charles Watts, Mrs. Eula Watts, Mrs. Odessa Davis, Mrs. Evelyn Clayton, Mrs. Bernice Lewis, Mrs. Dorothy Joyner and Mr. Wesley Johnson.

BAPTIST YOUTH COUNCIL

In 1961 a group of teen-agers decided to work with the children of the community. These children attended the Vacation Bible School for two weeks and this group of young adults worked with them for two additional weeks each summer. The meetings were held at the church 3 days a week from 10 a. m. to 2 p. m. The children engaged in many interesting and educational activities. Miss Carolyn Campher (Lindsay), and Mr. Lucius Richardson have served as chairmen of this project.

In 1963 some of the young adults who worked in this summer project, organized the first Baptist Youth Council in Macedonia. The officers are: Mr. Lucius Richardson, president; Mr. Beverly Davis, vice-president; Miss Lois Owens, Secretary; Miss Vernita Myrick, treasurer and Mr. Henry Turner, chaplain. Other members are: Misses Gwendolyn Andrews, Jo Ann Davis, Antoinette Evens, Rachelle Johnson, Donna Mae Stevens, Ada Belle Chandler, and Messrs. Edward Drummond, Victor Myrick, Jesse Williams, and Ronald Roberson. Mrs. Vivien Stanfield, Mrs. Odessa Davis, and Mrs. Arlene White are advisors.

Aside from the summer project this organization is participating in activities of civic interests.

CHOIRS OF MACEDONIA

Music has always been given a very significant place in our worship service. In 1876 Mr. Isaah P. Patterson organized the Senior Choir in Macedonia and since that time at least ten more have been organized. There are seven active choirs at the present time. Their directors are: Mr. William Hope (directs two of them), Mr. George Tunstall, Mr. Herman Pettigrew, Mrs. Orangie Epps, Mrs. Cornelia Ringgold, and Mrs. Gladys Brown. Other directors have been: Mr. Philip Patterson, Rev. Allen Pettigrew, Mr. Arthur Jones, Mr. James Pettigrew, Mrs. Ida McCoy, Mr. John E. Satterfield, and Mr. George Hanks. Mr. Charles Owens is assistant director of the Kaye Burke Chancel Choir at this writing.

Those who have served as organists and pianists are: Mrs. Rosie Bias, Miss Dorothy Evans, Mrs. Hazel Mitchell Phillips, Mrs. Orangie Epps, Mr. Herman Pettigrew, Mr. Wallace McCoy, Mrs. Ruth Taylor, Mr. Victor Myrick, Mrs. Sallie Merriweather, Mrs. Fannie E. Gilles, Miss Linda Wharton and Mrs. Colyn Clayton Harrington. Mrs. Velvo Ingram, Mrs. Bernice Lewis and Mr. James Hanks are the pianists at the prayer services.

CHOIR NUMBER 1

The Senior Choir of Macedonia was organized by Mr. Isaiah P. Patterson in 1876. He served as choir director for many years. The following persons were the first members of this choir: Mrs. Sally Merriweather, Mrs. Lucy Patterson, Mrs. Caroline Booker, Mrs. Annie Willis, Mrs. Mary E. Jones, Mrs. Mamie Taylor, Mr. Robert Ward, and Mr. Horace Johnson.

After the death of Mr. I. P. Patterson, his son Phillip Patterson was appointed chorister. He served well for several years. Reverend Allen Pettigrew was the third director of the choir.

Mr. John E. Satterfield joined this choir in 1908. He became the fourth director of the choir in December, 1928. He served faithfully and well for 33 years. In 1961 Mr. Satterfield was compelled to resign his post because of ill health.

Mr. William Hope is the present director. He succeeded Mr. John E. Satterfield in 1961.

It was during the administration of Mr. Satterfield that the name of the choir was changed from Senior Choir to Choir Number 1.

CHOIR NUMBER 2

Choir No. 2 was originally titled the Junior Choir. It was first organized in 1920 under the leadership of Mr. Philip Patterson.

In 1923 Mr. Arthur Jones revived the choir as the B. Y. P. U. Choir then later gave it its original name, Junior Choir. Upon the resignation of Mr. Jones, Mr. James H. Pettigrew was appointed director in May 1927.

In August 1932, Mr. George Tunstall was appointed the fourth director of the Junior Choir. Mr. Tunstall was a member of this choir when Mr. Patterson was the director. A few years after Mr. Tunstall became the director, the name of the choir was changed to "Choir No. 2. The major good-will project of Choir No. 2 is the visit to the City Hospitals at Christmas. Homemade

cookies are given to the patients and a musical program is rendered.

In 1946 Mr. Tunstall organized a children's choir known as the "Junior Choir." This choir served the church well for about five years.

Mr. George Tunstall is serving well as director of Choir No. 2 as of this writing.

THE GOSPEL CHOIR (CHOIR NO. 3)

In April 1932, Mrs. Beatrice Mack, wife of Reverend D. G. Mack, organized the Gospel Choir of Macedonia. The members consisted of members of the Shower Circle. Its purpose was to render music on the annual day of the Shower Circle (the fourth Sunday in April). Mr. John H. Nicholas was the first director. He served until 1934.

Reverend Andrew H. Brown (now pastor of the New St. John Baptist Church), succeeded Mr. J. H. Nicholas. Under his leadership the choir also sang each fifth Sunday. Reverend Brown worked faithfully with the choir until February 1949 when he was called into the ministry.

Mr. Herman Pettigrew succeeded Reverend Andrew Brown. As of this writing he is still directing the group very efficiently. Mr. Pettigrew has also been the organist of Macedonia since 1939.

THE KAYE BURKE CHANCEL CHOIR

It was in November 1954 when Morning Star Baptist Church worshipped with Macedonia and brought their Young-Adult Choir that Mrs. Odessa Davis began canvassing for young people to form a choir. A surprisingly large number expressed their interest in the project. Since Reverend Clayton had suggested to Mrs. Orangie Epps that this type of choir be organized, Mrs. Davis immediately turned the names over to her. Mrs. Epps lost no time in organizing the group and it became known as the Young Adult Choir with Mrs. Orangie Epps as their directress. Mrs. Odessa Davis and Mrs. Velvo Ingram serve in an advisory capacity.

After the death of one of its faithful members, Miss Kaye Burke, the choir decided to change the name from Young Adult to the Kaye Burke Chancel Choir.

Mr. Charles Owens, one of the choir's soloists, very ably assists Mrs. Orangie Epps by directing the singers. Miss Linda Wharton (another member of the choir), often accompanies the group on the piano.

Macedonia is proud of the Kaye Burke Chancel Choir. It is one of the finest young-adult choirs in Baltimore. Their singing seems to penetrate into the very soul of the listeners.

THE YOUTH CHOIR

The Youth Choir of the Macedonia Baptist Church was organized in 1954. The founder of this choir is Mrs. Cornelia Ringgold. She is also their director. Those who assist her are: Mrs. Mary Hope, Mrs. Earline Ford, and Charlotte Williams. Mrs. Colyn Clayton Harrington is the pianist. There are between 60 and 65 members of the choir. Fifty of them are active. The children range in age from 5 to 12 years.

MEN'S CHORUS

The first Men's Chorus of the Macedonia Baptist Church was founded by Mr. John H. Nicholas in 1943. This chorus served on Men's Day for several years. Whenever they were called upon to sing on other programs, they served well.

Later, the Men's Chorus was re-organized by Mr. John Satterfield, director of Choir Number 1. They served on Men's Day and on many special occasions. Mr. Satterfield retired as director in 1957.

In 1957 Mr. William Hope, the present director of Choir Number 1, accepted the position of chorister for the Men's Chorus. The group serves on Men's Day, on special programs, and from time to time they give recitals.

THE CLAYTON CHORUS

In 1933 the first Women's Chorus was organized in Macedonia by Mrs. Ida McCoy. This group sang on Woman's Day for many years. Mrs. McCoy served as director for approximately 16 years. Mrs. Orangie Epps succeeded Mrs. McCoy and served for six years.

Recently the name of the chorus was changed to the Clayton Chorus and was directed by Mrs. Cornelia Ringgold. In 1962 Mrs. Gladys Brown became the new director of the group and she holds that position as of this writing.

SPECIAL GIFTS

Among the special gifts from members and organizations of Macedonia include:

1. Individual Communion Service - Mrs. Marie Carter
2. Public Address System - Choir No. 1, Mr. John E. Satterfield, Director
3. Beautiful Calendars - Men's Club, Mr. Leslie Gundy, President
4. Electric water cooler - Mrs. Orangie Epps in honor of her mother, Mrs. Effie Wise
5. Drapes and carpet on pulpit - Women of the Church, Mrs. Martha B. Pulley, Chairman
6. New covering for steps in two vestibules - Men of the Church, Deacon Charles Morris, chairman
7. Flower vases and water urn re-silvered - Mr. Earl Lee, Jr. and Mr. Jerome Lee
8. Palms - Social Committee, Mrs. Cornelia Ringgold, Chairman
9. Communion set re-silvered - Deacon Bethel Perkins
10. New Communion Linen - Flower Circle, Mrs. Orangie Epps, President
11. Pulpit Bible - W. Charles Lawson Bible Class, Rev. I. C. Reddie, Instructor
12. Communion Table - Deacon George F. Holmes, Mrs. Marthetta Ralls and Mrs. Naomi Morris
13. Cross and Candle Holders - Mrs. Lottie Mapp
14. Candle Holders - Mrs. Kearon Johnson
15. Part payment on new piano - Mrs. Martha B. Pulley
16. Set of books for Pre-Kindergarten - Deacon and Mrs. Charles Morris
17. One thousand dollars from estate of Mrs. Clara Lewis (1964)
18. Bible in lecture room donated by Flower Circle in 1941.

SUMMARY

W. Charles Lawson and Leander Jones had a story to tell. They came upon some children in West Baltimore who evidently had not heard this story. They gathered these children around them in an old stable in Vincent Street and began relating it. Other adults joined them in this new venture. In order to be sure that the children would come back to hear more of this story, goodies were distributed among them at the end of each session. Mr. Lawson and Mr. Jones must have been very good at telling stories to children because it was not long before the distributing of candy ceased, but the children kept coming back to hear more. What was the story? It was the story of Jesus Christ.

The parents heard the children tell about this wonderful experience and they began to come along with their children. By 1874 there were enough interested children and adults for Reverend W. Charles Lawson to found the Macedonia Baptist Church.

The stable needed flooring and furnishings. One of Rev. Lawson's white friends, Mr. G. G. Tyler, donated the material for flooring and also the chairs for the improvement of this humble house of worship.

The membership expanded so rapidly that it was not long before it was necessary to build a church on Saratoga Street. After the death of Rev. W. Charles Lawson in 1893, and the appointment of Rev. A. B. Callis, the membership continued to grow. It became necessary for Macedonia to build a larger house of worship on the same site. In 1903 Rev. D. G. Mack succeeded Rev. A. B. Callis, the people from all sections of Baltimore joined the Macedonia Baptist Church. In 1925 a beautiful white marble edifice on Lafayette and Fremont Avenues was purchased. This house of worship has proved to be quite adequate. Macedonians have worshipped in four buildings, from a stable to one of the most impressive edifices in Baltimore, Maryland.

A church's membership only grows when the leaders are dedicated men with an inherent ability to lead. Macedonia has been blessed with leaders of this caliber. Rev. W. Charles Lawson, Rev. Augustus B. Callis, Dr. Daniel G. Mack and Dr. Willard L. Clayton were the four ministers of Macedonia in the past 90 years. Each accepted the call to Macedonia because he could see that there was a sincerity among the members that is rather unique. Each of the ministers proved that he did not accept the position for what he was going to get out of it, but rather for what he could give to it. This accounts for the fact that there has never been a split in the ranks in the long and illustrious existence of Macedonia.

Other contributing factors to the continuous growth of Macedonia have been the founding of 34 organizations; the selection of competent men and women as officers of the Church; the Christ-like relationship among the members; the progressive attitude that the people of Macedonia have always exemplified; and the most important factor has been the awareness of the need of prayer. The prayer services and the revival meetings have always held very important places in the program of Macedonia. It is the belief of the writer that Macedonia's success is due to her unshaken faith in God and unwavering confidence in humanity. The main premise on which she operates is "Do not be neither the last to give up the old, nor the first to take on the new."

Reverend Lawson lighted the torch, passed it on to Reverend Callis, who passed it on to Reverend Mack, who passed it on to Reverend Clayton. Each minister accepted the challenge, and each came out conqueror and more than conqueror.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

The sources of information concerning the history of Macedonia are very limited. The references used include: The Church Constitution & Manual 1902; Reports of the Deacon Board dating back to 1901; a book by Mr. A. B. Koger entitled, "Negro Baptists of Maryland, 1946; the 75th Anniversary Programs from Macedonia and also from Sharon; and an article in the Afro-American in 1925 by Howard E. Young entitled, "Macedonia Baptist Begins in Horse Stable Soon to Enter \$100,000 Marble Church."

The other very helpful source of information was personal interviews with members of Macedonia, especially the senior members.

The writer is deeply grateful to everyone who shed a ray of light on the authentic story of our church.