The living church

New events and personalities in the Metropolitan Baltimore regilgious community

Rev. Wilson brings new ideas to Israel Baptist

The Rev. Harlie W. Wilson Jr. is the fourth and youngest man ever to serve as pastor of Israel Baptist Church.

The 29 - year - old Virginia - born minister succeeds the Rev. Edmond D. Meade, pastor emeritus, who retired in December, 1976 after 38 years of service as pastor.

Israel Baptist, located at Chester and Preston Sts., has 900 members and the membership has increased since Rev. Wilson has been pastor.

Speaking of his new position as pastor of the 87 - year - old East Baltimore church, Rev. Wilson says he will "involve the church in the community and build a strong education department, a more efficient Sunday School and give youth the opportunity to express themselves."

Prior to becoming pastor of Israel Baptist, the young minister formerly pastored the Promise Land Baptist Church, Moneta, Va.; Oak Grove Baptist Church, Buckingham County, Va.; Sunflower Baptist Church, Nathalie, Va. and the Maple Street Baptist Church, Roanoke, Va.

"I want to give young people more to do in the church and try to get some of the youth back that we lost.

"Youth have tried everything and they found out it was not what they expected it to be. They have searched a long time and found out the only answer is the church," said Rev. Wilson.

Rev. Wilson received his bachelor of arts degree in history and his master's divinity degree from Virginia Seminary, Lynchburg, Va. He is a member of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity and the Ministers Conference of Roanoke, Va., and the Ministrs Conference of Baltimore.

Conference of Baltimore.

He says he is aware of the number of people not in the church and plans to have a bus ministry that will travel throughout the city picking up people to attend church.

"Being a minister is so challenging, you can't associate it with a profession," said Rev. Wilson.

Members of Israel Baptist honored their new pastor recently at a banquet, where the Rev. Darneal Johnson, pastor of Wayland Baptist was the speaker.

Installation services for Rev. Wilson were held April 16 with the Rev. Eddie R. Wilson Jr., of Leadenhall Baptist Church, speaking.

Israel Baptist Church was founded and organized in 1891 in the 1700 block of Mullikin St., by the late Rev. James H. Reid and several members.

In June 1910, the late Rev. James H. Williams was called to pastor the church. Under the leadership of the Rev. Williams the church continued its growth.

In March 1937, Rev. Williams died and the Rev. Edmond D. Meade was unanimously called to take up the work in 1938.

Under the leadership of Rev Meade the church continued onward and upward. The building was renovated twice and 13 groups were organized.

Speaking of the 38 years of service as pastor of Israel Baptist, Rev. Meade was described by his members as a man they could depend on and "look to for comfort, strength and advice."

A member stated, "He has done nothing to bring scandal to Israel, nothing to shame his congregation or family, nothing to cause non - Christians to scorn Christianity and he has led an exemplary Christian life."

Members marched on Dec. 14, 1952 to their present location and two years later, the mortgage was burned and the cornerstone laid Dec. 18, 1955.

Some of the varied activities of the church include a departmental Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, annual Youth Day and many other activities and functions are carried out by numerous church groups.

Israel Baptist Church participates in community activities through their Boy Scout and Cub Scout troops and their annual NAACP membership drive.

(AFRO Photo by Roman Hankewycz)

'WELCOME', says the Rev. Edmond D. Meade, (L) pastor emeritus of Israel Baptist Church as he shakes hands with the Rev. Harlie W. Wilson Jr., new pastor of Israel.

AFRO photo by Robin McGinty

GOSPEL SINGERS who observed their anniversary on April 16, were the Greene Sisters, a nationally known gospel group. Shown from (L) are Mrs. Catherine Greene, mother; The Rev. Albert Greene, father; the Rev. Mrs. Edna Isaac, lead singer. Second row shows from (L), Mrs. Joyce Butler, Miss Maxine Greene and Mrs. Alfreda Williams.

Famed Greene Sisters observe 17th anniversary

They started singing when they were four and five years old. Their parents would let them stand on chairs to make certain the audience could hear and see them sing.

Since then, they have traveled overseas, to the Islands and sung in numerous states.

The group is known as the Greene Sisters, a nationally known gospel singing group. The Rev. Mrs. Edna Isaac is the lead singer and her sisters are Miss Maxine Greene, Mrs. Alfreda Williams and Mrs. Joyce Butler.

The famed Greene sisters celebrated their 17th anniversary on April 16, with more than 700 guests attending.

The four - hour celebration was held at New Refuge Deliverance Church of Christ, 2045 East Monument St. Bishop Naomi Durante is pastor.

"Sing! Sing! Praise the Lord," shouted several of the guests as the Greene Sisters sung their latest song, "I've Got a New Born Soul" and "Christian's Catch Hell."

The audience clapped their hands and rocked with the music while the Greene Sisters sang. The gospel group wore white growns trimmed in green.

"Those sisters can sing all night for me," said a lady who said the Greene Sisters are her favorite gospel group.

It was like an old time revival with good gospel singing. Several gospel groups took part in the celebration.

Among groups singing were the Whitney Singers, Dixie Hummingbirds of Philadelphia, Pa.; St. Phillips Pentecostal Choir of Washington, D.C.

Also Mattie Tyson, the Ebony Players, Brother Barry and the Golden Echoes of Nassau Bahamas.

Emcees for the affair were Mrs. Catherine Greene, mother of the Greene Sisters. Also, Mrs. Pauline Wells Lewis, Ms. Mary Claiborne and James Stephania.

Proud parents of the Greene Sisters are the Rev. and Mrs. Albert (Catherine) Greene. Their father, Rev. Greene is pastor of Paradise Baptist Church and Mrs. Greene is national supervisor of International Quartet and an active member of Mount Moriah Baptist Church.

One of the Greene Sisters' nationwide best selling albums was "Whatever's Fair."

Reared in Mount Moriah Church, the sisters received their inspiration from their parents.

As part of the anniversary celebration, the Greene Sisters presented trophies to Rep. Parren J. Mitchell, Roscoe Herrington, Mayor William Schaefer and Ms. Pam Widgeon for their community involvement.

The sisters are scheduled to sing in California on May 29 and in Nassau in July and have been invited to Memphis, Tenn. in August to sing.

Rev. Garrison retires in May

Members of John Wesley United Methodist Church, North Avenue, and Bloomingdale Road, are having a retirement banquet for their pastor, the Rev. J. Lloyd Garrison.

The banquet will be held April 23, 7 p.m. at Martin's West. Rev. Garrison will retire as pastor of John Wesley United Methodist Church on May 31.

He has given 19 years of continuous meritorius services to his congregation and surrounding community.

He was appointed as pastor of the church on June 1, 1959 and had previously served as superintendent of the Washington conference.

During his tenure as pastor, he has contributed tremendously to the growth of John Wesley United Methodist Church and the membership has increased from 360 in 1959 to more than 1,500.

The annual budget of the church has increased from $11,000 to $80,000. As a minister, he has a great interest in education and young people and he instituted the church scholarship fund to aid youth in their quest for higher learning.

Greater New Hope membership rises

"I am so grateful and very thankful. We started out with three members and now have 500 members."

Speaking of the 18th anniversary of Greater New Hope Baptist Church at 2720 West North Ave., The Rev. Dr. Leonard E. Hicks, pastor, made the above statement.

Members and friends of Greater New Hope observed their anniversary recently at a banquet held at La Fontaine Rouge.

Rev. Hicks is founder and pastor of the church that was organized in a store front on Jan. 11, 1961 at 2320 Monroe St.

After leaving Monroe Street, Rev. Hicks and members moved to 1308 - 10 Riggs Ave., where they stayed until Dec. 15, 1974 when they marched to their North Avenue church home.

As part of the anniversary celebration, revival services have been held for two weeks with the Rev. Clifford Johnson of Mount Pleasant Baptist church preaching.

The Rev. Dr. Samuel Cutler of Goouster, Va., is scheduled to preach at the 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. services on April 23.

(AFRO Photo by Roman Hankewycz)

ANNIVERSARY BANQUET was held recently for the Rev. Dr. and Mrs. Leonard E. Hicks. Rev. Hicks is pastor and founder of Greater New Hope Baptist Church at 2720 North Ave.

Preach-a-thon April 21

A soul saving, all night preach-a-thon featuring women ministers of the city will be held April 21, beginning at 7:30 p.m. at St. Timothy Christian Baptist Church, 4005 Groveland Ave. The Rev. Carl Washington is pastor.

Mrs. Minnie Washington, sponsor, stated messages will be geared toward saving souls and we are hoping to make this an annual activity.

Other sponsors are the Rev. Mrs. Laura Stevenson and Evangelist Mary Antoinette Phillips, program coordinators.

"This is a new kind of program carrying the world's oldest and greatest message," said Evangelist Phillips.

Among female ministers who will participate are the Revs. Emma Fisher, Alfreda Wiggins, Edna Isaac, Joyce Wilson, Carrie Williams, Marie Cooke, Wyona Cook and Julia Harrison.

Music will be provided by choirs and soloists from various churches in the city.

Ministers who are interested in participating should call 728-6309.

Metro church briefs

A bake sale and craft show will be held April 21 at Strawbridge United Methodist Church, Park Avenue and Wilson Streets from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The men of First Apostolic Faith Institutional Church, 27 South Caroline St., will observe Men's Day on April 23. Robert Wyatt is president, Bishop W.A. Showell is pastor.

The Golden Voices of Washington D.C. will be special guests at St. Ann Church of Christ, Inc., 3000 North Ave., at 6:30 p.m. Elder Robert F. Neal is pastor.

The Social Security Chorus, composed of 60 voices with Ms. Patsy Cornelius as conductor and Ms. Beatrice Jindra, accompanist will be singing at New Psalmist Baptist Church, Franklin and Cathedral Streets. April 27, 7:30 p.m.

Members of All Saints Church community will sponsor a chicken dinner May 7, 2 to 6 p.m. Proceeds from the dinner will be used to purchase a sound system for the church.

Members of Providence Baptist Church, 4200 Liberty Heights Ave., have been celebrating the 50th anniversary of their church this month.

The celebration will end April 22, when members and friends will sit to a banquet at the Lord Baltimore Hotel.

The Rev. William Jones of Bethany Baptist Church, Brooklyn, N.Y., will be the speaker.

The Rev. Marcus G. Wood is pastor of Providence Baptist. Chairpersons of the banquet are Mrs. Maxine J. Wood and Aaron Stansbury.

A retirement banquet will be held for the Rev. J. Lloyd Garrison, April 23, 7 p.m. at Martin's West.

After 19 years of meritorious services to his parishioners, Rev. Garrison will retire on May 31. William D. Parris is chairperson of the affair. Ms. Nina Bean, co-chairperson; Ms. M. Rosalind Allen, program chairman and Joseph Lawson, lay leader.

"Youth Blossoming In God's Kingdom," is the theme for the youth fellowship worship service of Harlem Park Community Baptist Church on April 30, 3 p.m. The church is located at 612-618 Gilmor St.

Miss Michelle Dew is president; Miss Janet Betts, advisor, Mrs. Bernita Conaway, advisor and the Rev. Raymond Kelly Jr. is pastor.

Members of Gillis Memorial Christian Community Church, 4016 Park Heights Ave., are making plans for the 31st anniversary of their church and 10th anniversary of their pastor the Rev. Theodore Jackson Jr.

The anniversary celebration will be held May 4, 7:30 p.m. at the Blue Crest North.

For ticket information call the church. Mrs. Hattie Allen is chairperson; Ms. Heron Matthews, publicity chairwoman; Ms. Celestine Knight, co-chairwoman.

The youth of East Baltimore Deliverance Center, 1001-05 Caroline St., will observe Youth Day on April 30.

An anniversary banquet for the Rev. Samuel B. Redd is scheduled for April 24 at La Fontaine Bleu. Rev. Redd is pastor of Mount Ararat Baptist Church.

Men's Day will be observed April 23 at John Wesley United Methodist Church, North Avenue and Bloomingdale Road.

The Rev. Robert Hunt will be the 11 a.m. speaker. Thomas Teal, chairperson; Fred Green, co-chairperson, Richard D. Brown, president and the Rev. J. Lloyd Garrison is pastor.

Joy night will be observed April 26, 8 p.m. at Lewin United Methodist Church, 4820 Reisterstown Rd. The Rev. St. George I.B. Crosse is pastor.

The Young Adults of St. Bernadine's Church, 616 Mount Holly St., will sponsor a spring disco extravanganza May 6 at 10 p.m.

Evangelist Emma Wright will render services at the Greater Ebenezer Church of God In Christ, 429 Robert St., on April 23, 6 p.m. The Rev. Dr. Clarence E. Powell is pastor.

Revival services will be held April 23-28 at Concord Baptist Church, 5204 Liberty Heights Ave. with services starting at 7:30 p.m.

The Rev. J. H. Ballord, pastor of United Metropolitan Baptist Church in Winston Salem, N.C. will be the speaker. The Rev. Matthew R. Silver is pastor of Concord.

"PIPPIN" — Morris Mechanic Theatre, Hopkins Plaza, Tuesday, April 25 through May 13. Call 752-1407 for more information.

ZION BAPTIST CHURCH
1700 N. Caroline St.

Celebrates its

43rd ANNUAL MEN'S DAY

SUNDAY, APRIL 23, 1978

Theme: "Christian men witnessing for Christ in times like These"

9:30 A.M.—Church School

11 A.M. Morning Services

3:00 P.M.—Evening Services

DR. HAMILTON

Guest speaker at Morning and Evening Services

Dr. Charles S. Hamilton

Pastor, Tabernacle Baptist Church, of Augusta Ga.

We Welcome You

MR. JOHN D. FEATHERSTONE, Pres.
R. MOSES WILLIAMS, Pastor

PENNSYLVANIA AVE. AME ZION CHURCH
"The Church of the Burning Heart"
Corner Pennsylvania Ave. and Dolphin St.

APRIL 23, 1978

28th ANNUAL YOUTH DAY

11:00 A.M.—Gaylord Brown Morning Speaker
Afternoon Speaker, Ronald Huff

6:00 P.M.—Roll Call
Music by: Youth Choir, Marshall H. Strickland, Symphonette and Young Adult Choir

A Friendly Welcome To All

REV. MARSHALL H. STRICKLAND, Pastor

ANNUAL WOMEN'S DAY

SUNDAY, APRIL 23, 1978

MT. HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH
1716 Gwynns Falls Parkway
Baltimore, Md. 21217

9:00 A.M.—Sunday School

11:00 A.M.—Morning Worship

Vice-President — Christine Hunt and Chestina Nance, Presiding

Guest speaker

Mrs. Aretha Downey

from Washington, D.C.

3:30 P.M.—Program and report from Captains

Captains Are

Alberta Hope *Lynda Jones*
Doris Gray *Maxine Pittman*

REV. A. D. NANCE, Pastor

Douglas Memorial Community Church
"The People of the Way"
LAFAYETTE and MADISON AVES.
MARION CURTIS BASCOM, D.D.
Minister
JAMES S. HAMMOND
Minister of Music
JUANITA HALL DAVIS
Organist

SUNDAY
April 23, 1978

8:30 A.M.
"I Will Give Thanks Unto The Lord" By Matthews
"Give Me Jesus" Handy Arr
11:00 A.M.
"Hallelujah Amen" By Handel
"In That New Jerusalem" Arr De Cormier

ST. JOHN BAPTIST CHURCH
Will celebrate its
Annual Women's Day

Sunday, April 30, 1978
at
11:45 A.M.

Guest speaker will be

Dr. Aurelia R. Downey

Past president of the Nannie Helen Burroughs School — Washington, D.C.

Choirs will feature, The Famous 'Uniques,' Shiloh Baptist Church, Washington, D.C.

Mrs. Esther Vines, Women's Day Chairlady
Mrs. Hazel Rayford, Co-chairlady
Mrs. Shirline McLendon, Program Chairlady

DR. WALTER L. PARRISH, II, Pastor

INVITATION TO LIFE
AT THE
BALTIMORE COLLEGE OF THE BIBLE
1701 N. Calvert Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21202
685-6828

STUDY God's word. See how it can change YOUR life.

Classes every Saturday from 9 AM-2PM

REQUIREMENTS
Must have the gift of the spirit and believe in foot washing

REV. CHARLES F. LEADUM,
Founder & President

St. James' Episcopal Church
LAFAYETTE SQUARE

THE CLERGY
The Rev. Donald O. Wilson, Rector
Dr. Robert Ford, Deacon
A. Maurice Murphy, Choir Master-Organist

SUNDAY, APRIL 23, 1978

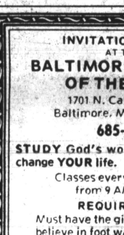
8:00 A.M.—Holy Communion

9:00 A.M.—Church School in Guild Hall and Undercroft

9:00 A.M.—Holy Eucharist and Sermon (In Church)

11:00 A.M.—Choral Eucharist and Sermon

The Public Is Cordially Invited To Attend



HE'S COMING BACK

Mr. Arthur Bradford and members of his Evangelistic team and the Bradford Harmoniers will be at the New Elizabeth Baptist, 4901 Park Heights Avenue in Baltimore Sunday, April 23rd at 3 P.M. The public is invited. Mr. Bradford is a native of South Carolina. He spent his early days in Baltimore where he attended public schools.

Within the last twenty years, Mr. Bradford has conducted Christian crusades in more than 40 countries in Africa, the West Indies, South America and the South Pacific. Mr. Bradford reads, writes and speaks five languages. Sunday, June 4, 1978, Mr. Bradford and members of his team will begin a national revival in Washington, D.C. We need 1,000 volunteers to assist us. See Mr. Bradford this Sunday in Baltimore or write to: THE ARTHUR BRADFORD EVANGELISTIC ASSOCIATION, 721 Cleveland Street, Brooklyn, N.Y. 11208.

(PHONE No. (212) 257-3773)

MT. LEBANON BAPTIST CHURCH, INC.
The Church with the Family Atmosphere
2320 Reisterstown Rd.
Baltimore, Md. 21217

SUNDAY, APRIL 23, 1978

MEN'S DAY
Theme: Christian Men Working Toward A Christian Goal

10:00 A.M.—Sunday School
11:00 A.M.—Morning Worship
Sermon By Rev. Dr. W. W. Payne of City Temple Baptist.

3:30 P.M.—
Sermon by Rev. A. M. Smith
Attorney, Associate Minister of First Baptist Church. Men's Day Chorus Will render music for both services.

Come Grow With Us

REV. OLIN P. MOYD, Ph.D.

REV. OLIN P. MOYD, Ph.D., Pastor

PERKINS SQUARE BAPTIST CHURCH
2500 EDMONDSON AVE. CORNER of WARWICK

SUNDAY, APRIL 23, 1978

CHURCH SCHOOL DAY

8:00 A.M. Early Morning Worship Sermon by the Pastor
9:15 A.M. Church School and new members' class
10:30 A.M. Open Heart Service
11:00 A.M. Morning Worship Sermon by the Pastor
3:00 P.M. Annual Pew Rally and A Special Program by the Church School
6:30 P.M. BTU & New Members' Class

We Welcome You

REV. RICHARD H. OGLE IV, Pastor

Concord Baptist Church
5204 Liberty Hghts. Ave.

Church Revival

April 23 thru April 28, 1978

Morning Worship

Sermon by Guest Speaker

Rev. J. H. Ballord

Pastor of United Metropolitan Baptist Church, Winston-Salem, N.C.

Services Begin at 7:30 p.m. Each Night, Music Rendered By Choirs each night

All Are Welcome

REV. MATTHEW R. SILVER, Pastor

Knox United Presbyterian Church
1214 North Broadway
Baltimore, Maryland 21213

The Women of Knox United Presbyterian Church present in Concert The Thornes Trio, on Sunday, April 30, 1978 at 6:00 p.m. This is to benefit Women's Day, price in advance, $3.00 at the door $3.50. Tickets may be purchased at the church any day of the week.

For further information call 276-4786.
Brenda Oliver and Jean Johnson
Chairpersons
Lonnie J. Oliver Pastor

Baltimoreans in the Armed Forces

Away From Home

U.S. Marines
Completed Training

Marine Private J. Scott Cartwright, son of Mr. and Mrs. John D. Cartwright of 2807 Delmar Ave., has completed recruit training at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, S.C.

During the nine week training cycle, he learned the basics of battlefield survival. He was introduced to the typical daily routine that he will experience during his enlistment and studied the personal and professional standards traditionally exhibited by Marines.

Marine Private John F. Bruchey Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. John F. Bruchey Sr. of 4031 Belwood Ave., has completed recruit training at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, S.C.

He joined the Marine Corps in June 1977.

Marine Private First Class Ronnie Hancock, son of Queen E. Parker of 103 E. Federal St., has completed recruit training at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, S.C.

U.S. Navy

Navy Fireman Recruit Steven T. Hartsock, son of Robert T. Hartsock of 3204 Berkshire Road, recently departed for an extended deployment in the Middle East.

He is serving as a crewmember aboard the guided missile destroyer USS Barney, homeport is in Norfolk, Va., and currently operating as a unit of the U.S. Middle East Force.

A graduate of Polytechnical Institute, he joined the Navy in October 1977.

U.S. Army
Assigned

Pvt. Gregory Minor, son of Mr. and Mrs. Arther Minor, 1821 McCulloh St., recently was assigned as a wheeled-vehicle mechanic in the 565th Medical Company at Fort Polk, La.

The private is a 1976 graduate of Douglass High School.

Pvt. Herman Mack, son of Mrs. Thelm Mack, 602 N. Fulton Ave., recently was assigned as a supply clerk with the 54th Engineer Battalion in Wildflecken, Germany. The private is a 1972 graduate of Northwestern High School.

Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, S.C.

A 1977 graduate of Lake Clifton Senior High School, he joined the Marine Corps in September 1977.

Bethel AME is planning Women's Day

The women of Bethel AME Church have planned a series of spiritually - enlightening programs leading to their Women's Day experience May 28.

Their theme is "Presenting Ourselves as Living Sacrifices, Holy and Acceptable Unto God," from Romans 12:1.

The Rev. John R. Bryant is pastor; Marie Phillips-Cooke is chairsister, A. Lorraine King is co-chairsister of Women's Day.

A workshop entitled "Stepping Stones to Christ," will be held April 22 at the church, Druid Hill Avenue and Lanvale Street. All community women are invited to participate. Dinners will be sold following the workshop.

Other pre-Women's Day activities include: "Young, Gifted and Black" performance featuring Oprah Winfrey and teenaged girls of Bethel, April 29, 7:30 p.m.; Women's Day Choir Concert, May 7, 7 p.m.; Mother-Daughter Brunch, May 9, 11 a.m.; Lou Rawls Premiere Benefit Performance, May 23, 8 p.m., Painter's Mill.

Also, there will be Vesper Services each Wednesday night in May at 7 p.m. at the church. Women preachers from area churches will bring the messages.

Preachers for the actual Women's Day services are: the Rev. Cynthia Jones, Jones Tabernacle Baptist, 8 a.m.; Sister Kay Brown of Atlanta, 11 a.m. and the Rev. Naomi Durant, New Refuge Deliverance Church, 6 p.m.

Minister speaks out

(EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the third part of a three part series on new horizons for women in the ministry by the Rev. Miss Alma Alston, associate pastor of Gillis Memorial Community Church.)

The number of women entering seminaries and turning toward the pastoral ministry have been increasing in recent years.

There are an estimated 6,000 women ordained in this country. Among the 60 mainline Christian churches in the United States, the United Methodist Church boasts the largest number of ordained women, about 1,000.

Second is the United Presbyterian Church with 200. Since they opened up ordination to women in 1970, the Lutheran Church in America has ordained 30 women and the American Lutheran Church 8.

The 12 - million - member Southern Baptist Convention, which is the largest Protestant denomination in the country, has only about 20 ordained women.

By contrast, two relatively small denominations, the United Church of Christ and the American Baptist Convention, have a high proportion of women clergy:

The United Church of Christ has more than 400 or ordained women and the American Baptists about 200.

But many of these who have full pastoral powers on paper are finding they cannot get satisfactory pastoral positions.

Women preachers have a variety of ways of tapping spiritual resources to gain strength and creativity as they carve new roles for themselves in the pastoral ministry. Some experience dramatic visions, revelations and dreams emanating from a transcending God.

Others rely more on a more subdued sense of inner conviction that God is guiding and sustaining.

But whatever their theological preferences, these women recognize the importance of firm spiritual foundations to support them as they step into pulpits across this nation to declare the word of the Lord and take leading role in the Church of Jesus Christ.

There are similarities between today's women ministers and the tough, earthy country preachers of the past. They are faced with a hostile environment, a kind of frontier region.

Their frontier is a frontier of the mind, of prejudice and male - oriented traditions.

Women ministers may cite the scriptures and church tradition as authority on matters of morality and theology.

The real source for their call, their conviction about their ministry is centered in an internal sense of spiritual truth and divine guidance. The spirit in them is the ultimate authority and justification for their ministry.

As women ministers evaluate the profound challenge of their ministry, we cite the tribulations that confronted the Hebrew prophet Jeremiah as a precedent for our own hectic ministerial experiences. Jeremiah was a person who was called by God in much the way most women feel called.

"I appointed you a prophet to the nations," the Lord told Jeremiah. "Be not afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you." And the Lord warned this prophet that the leaders and people of Judan would be against him: "They will fight against you: but they shall not prevail against you, for I am with you, says the Lord, to deliver you. (Jer. 1:19).

Today's women ministers in the pulpit face many of the same test, trials and criticisms that confronted Jeremiah as he attempted to persuade them to reform their institutions and ways.

Jeremiah is sometimes known as the "weeping prophet" because he lived through a tragic period in Hebrew history, during the last days of the kingdom of Judah and the first part of the Babylonian captivity.

By one tradition, he died a martyr in Egypt, his prophecies unheeded by an exiled Hebrew people who had refused to accept his words as the Word of God.

Many women ministers are living through difficult times, facing discrimination and prejudice because of their sex.

While history has vindicated the words of Jeremiah, the validity of the unchartered and sometimes disruptive course of our women ministers still awaits final judgment.

The best advice in evaluating those of us who have been daring, compassionate and sometimes strident pioneers may come from the Apostle Paul, a man who has often suffered abuse at the hands of a modern church: "Do not quench the spirit, do not despise prophesying, but test everything" (I Thessalonians 5:19-21). And as you test our spiritual authority and examine the fruits of our labors in the pulpits of this country, perhaps a few years hence you will conclude that the trail - blazing women ministers of this era were indeed prophets who introduced a new wholeness into our religious life.

Like my black brother, from Selma, Alabama, who God permitted to stand in the nation's capital one day, and cry with a loud voice that could be heard around the world, "I have a dream," I have a dream, that one day women ministers shall not have to convince male religious leaders and male - led congregations that women should be treated as equals whom God has designated for spiritual service.

I have a dream. I have a dream that one day Churchmen and church institutions which resist this sense of divine mission will be prime targets for prophetic wrath.

I have a dream that one day the tension between male and female roles in the ministry will be resolved in every denomination in the world. I have a dream that one day women ministers shall be judged by their skills, they too shall be judged by the contents of their characters, by their qualification and training to do a job well done.

I have a dream that one day, conferences, conventions, councils, churches and congregations both Protestant and Catholic, will ordain all qualified women ministers and will give them the opportunity to display their talents as head of large urban and suburban churches.

I may not live to see these dreams come to fruition, but I pray to God that all the "called women ministers," this great feminist movement will not give o'er until the victory is won.

Mrs. Fields, social worker

Mrs. Winifred Koger Fields, 50, formerly a social worker died April 18 after a brief illness.

Mrs. Fields was raised in Baltimore and was a graduate of Morgan State College and the University of California at Berkeley. She moved to California in 1961 and was an active member of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority.

Funeral services will be held at Friendship Baptist Church in California on Friday, April 21 at 1 p.m.

Mrs. Fields is survived by her husband, Paul Fields; her daughter, Jacqueline Fields; a brother, John Koger Jr.; three nieces, two great - nieces and two great - nephews.

Mrs. Brown belonged to Allen AME Church

Funeral services for Mrs. Gladys Purnell Brown were held April 13 at Allen AME Church, 1130 W. Lexington St. She was buried April 14.

Mrs. Brown died April 10 at Provident Hospital after a lengthy illness.

She lived in the Brentwood Apartments, 401 E. 25th St. and participated in activities in the apartment building.

Mrs. Brown was born in Stevensonville, Md. and moved to Baltimore in the late 30s.

She sold AFRO's in Port Deposit, Md. in 1936.

She was married to the late George Monroe Purnell, an AME minister, and the late George C. Brown.

Mrs. Brown was a presser at Star Cleaners in Arbutus, Md. for 30 years.

She was an active member of Allen AME Church and sang in the Gospel Choir at the church.

She is survived by two sons, George M. Purnell Jr. and Chester B. Purnell, Lauringburg, N.C.; three daughters, Mrs. Gladys P. Hall, Mrs. Emma Timmons and Mrs. Margert Stevenson; two sons - in - law, Gimmie C. Timmons and Joseph R. Hall Jr.; two daughters - in - law, Mrs. Willie Ruth Purnell, Lauringburg, N.C. and Mrs. Ethel Purnell; 23 grandchildren and 26 great - grandchildren.

Mr. Queen was a farmer

Arthur Queen, 76, a long - time resident of Ferndale, Md., died April 10 at North Arundel Hospital after a brief illness.

Mr. Queen was a farmer for much of his life.

In 1936, he became the first black school bus contractor with the Anne Arundel County Board of Education. He, in partnership with his brother John, continued this business until 1970.

Surviving are his wife, Winifred; two daughters, Ms. Eleanor Armstead and Ms. Marilyn Washington; two grandsons, Joseph Armstead Jr. and Andre Washington; two sisters, Ms. Sarah E. Gaither of Severn and Ms. Mary E. Dujon of Staten Island, N.Y.; one brother, Mahlon Queen of Severn; one mother - in - law, Ms. Mary F. Green; one nephew, Lawrence Queen; and a host of nieces, nephews and friends.

Funeral services were held April 15 at the Metropolitan United Methodist Church in Severn, with Rev. Leon White officiating.

Burial was in Cedar Hill Cemetery.

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