Providence Baptist Week's Dedication Schedule

The Rev. Marcus Wood and his 50-member congregation of the Providence Baptist Church on Sunday, Feb. 8 will march to the new Pennsylvania Avenue location.

The procession will form at 10 a.m. at the Constant Care parking lot, Division and Mosher Sts.

Once at the new site, the 10:30 a.m. morning worship service will be conducted with the pastor, Rev. Mr. Wood preaching, and his choirs singing.

At 4 p.m. there will be a special Thanksgiving Communion service, with special music by the combined choirs.

Throughout the week, there will be worship services. Beginning on Monday, Feb. 9, and ending on Friday, Feb. 13, visiting ministers and their choirs and congregations will conduct these 7:30 p.m. services.

Mon., Feb. 9: New Shiloh Baptist Church, Dr. Harold Carter preaching.

Tues., Feb. 10: Concord Baptist Church, Dr. Matthew Silver preaching.

Wed., Feb. 11: Union Baptist Church, Rev. Vernon Dobson preaching.

Thurs., Feb. 12: First Baptist Church, Dr. Leroy Fitts preaching.

Fri., Feb. 13: Pennsylvania A.M.E. Zion Church, Dr. Marshall Strickland preaching.

Other special services to be held in the next three months will be announced.

Dedication of the unique $1.3 million solar-heated new church was Sunday, Feb. 1. Although not completely furnished, a standing room only crowd of over 1,000 was attracted to the 4 p.m. ceremony.

Chairs were provided for seating in the main sanctuary, where pews will be installed in time for the official opening.

The dedication address was by the Rev. Porter Phillips, pastor of Enon Baptist Church, joined by his choirs and congregation.

Earlier in the day, Providence members held their farewell service at the First Baptist Church, 4200 Liberty Heights Ave. It has been Providence's temporary home during the last 4 years while the new site was under construction. Members of this congregation also joined in the dedication later in the day.

A former all-white congregation, First Baptist is now integrated. The pastor, the Rev. Maurice Holder, was hailed for his courage when he invited the Providence congregation to join with his. The opportunity for the new location in the heart of the city, now the new home of Providence, changed these plans.

MAYOR THERE — Baltimore City's Mayor William Donald Schaefer, pictured with Providence Baptist Church minister, Rev. Marcus G. Wood at cornerstone laying for new church recalled this week.

WILLIAM DONALD SCHAEFER, Mayor
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR • CITY OF BALTIMORE
250 City Hall, Baltimore, Maryland 21202 (301) 396-3100

January 28, 1981

Reverend Marcus G. Wood and the Members
of Providence Baptist Church
Pennsylvania and Lafayette Avenues
Baltimore, Maryland 21217

Dear Reverend Wood and Church Members:

Congratulations on the completion of your new church, the only solar heated religious building in the City and the State.

Your church is a unique and very special addition to Baltimore's Urban Renewal and the Baltimore Renaissance. It is in fact a milestone for our City, one which I am certain will serve as a model for organizations of all kinds.

Again, Reverend Wood and Providence Baptist members, my heartiest congratulations and best wishes on this fine achievement.

Sincerely,

William Donald Schaefer
Mayor

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America's Best BALTIMORE All America City 76-77

'Different From Any Other Church' —Architect

"It's spectacular! Providence Baptist is not your normal church. It is different from any other sanctuary," says Tim Sosinski, project designer of Mark Beck Associates, Inc., the architectural firm responsible for the new $1.3 million edifice.

In addition to being the first solar - heated church in the city, Providence "captures the historical attributes of the congregation, while expressing a modern motif," which Sosinski calls a '21st century church."

The sanctuary, with a seating capacity of 500, is octangal. It features fine oak pews on a bed of plush burnt orange carpet.

The raised pulpit and choir area are easily visible. Another platform, adjacent to the choir, is provided for musical instruments.

Off - white walls bound the four stained glass windows, brought to the new location from the old church at the corner of Edmondson and Fremont Aves.

A pure glass wall faces the congregation and the baptistry is lighted internally.

A folded plate ceiling is low at the sides and rises high at the middle. "It's extraordinary. It has a climate of intimacy amongst the congregation," says Sosinski.

Some five classrooms will provide Christian educational training for adults, youth and toddlers. There is a large fellowship hall that, too, can be divided into four additional classrooms, if needed.

"There are not many windows; it's a tight building and well built. It is good for many, many years," says Sosinski.

The Beck architectural firm, headed by Mark H. Beck, is headquartered in Towson. As owner and president, he has supervised his company's involvement in a variety of projects.

In the Baltimore metropolitan area, these have included the Earth and Planetary Sciences Department on Hopkins' Homewood campus, the Baltimore County Detention Center in Towson, the Lexington Market renovation in downtown Baltimore and the Loyola College Student Center.

The Beck firm has long had an interest in energy conservation. Beck vice president, Peter C. Powell, is a leading national authority on solar energy.

In 1972, he built the first solar - heated residence in the Baltimore area. Since then, he has been much in demand as lecturer and consultant to the federal government, as well as state and local housing officials.

Powell was the project architect for the Providence Baptist Church.

KEYS TO NEW CHURCH — Reynolds M. Woods, left, construction manager for Nooco Co., the York, Pa. general contracting firm which built new Providence Baptist, hands over keys to church officials, Wilton Moore, chairman of trustee board; and John Campbell, chairman of deacon board. Providence holds its first worship service in unique solar-heated structure at Pennsylvania and Lafayette Aves., on Sunday, Feb. 8, 1981, at 11 a.m. This photo was made at Feb. 1 dedication of building, a first of its kind in Baltimore.

Congratulations to
Providence Baptist Church
and
Reverend Marcus Wood
on the dedication
of your new
facility.

mba
baltimore • towson
architects • planners • energy consultants
mark beck associates, inc.