Ministers urge Reagan to speak out for Human Rights

Members of the Baltimore Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance have endorsed a strong letter appealing to President Reagan to take a strong position on human rights.

The interracial group unanimously endorsed the letter adopted at its meeting this month at Grace Memorial Baptist Church. The Rev. Marion C. Bascom, president of the Alliance presided.

The motion to endorse the letter was made by Dr. Chester Wickwire, chaplain, Johns Hopkins University. Other area religious groups which have signed the letter to President Reagan include the Clergy and laity concerned and Maryland Churches United.

Excerpts of the letter said: "Our nation and the world await your leadership. We hope that your administration will bring us all closer to the vision of a just society at home and a world at Peace.

We write to you out of a growing concern and with great urgency. There is increasing and alarming evidence that military governments in many countries are viewing your election as a green light for repression of legitimate dissent and for widespread arrest and imprisonment, torture and murder.

"The assassination of six members of the leadership of the Democratic Revolutionary Front and the brutal slaying of our own missionary sisters in El Salvador, the roundup of 1,200 dissidents and suppression of 67 publications in South Korea, the arrest and disappearance of leading intellectuals and political figures in Haiti these are the leading edge of a wave of terror threatening to engulf many other lands. They reveal a growing spiral of violence and terror as official policy.

We emphasize, Mr. President, that these violent excesses are occurring in countries which our are allies, governments which receive aid and support from this nation. Their victims are often respected and independent trade unionists, academicians, religious and peasant leaders. Imagine the uproar that would take place if the Communist government of Poland were to arrest and murder the leaders of Solidarity, the independent trade movement....

"These crimes against humanity outrage every value that we hold dear as Protestant, Catholic, Orthodox Christian, as Americans. Now is the time and yours the responsibility. We ask, President Reagan, that you accept it."

HARRIS FAMILY SINGERS will celebrate their anniversary on Sunday, March 1 at Greater New Hope Baptist Church, 2720 North Ave., where the Rev. Leonard Hicks is pastor. Special guests will be Edgar Kendricks. The Harris Family singers have been singing gospel music for 11 years.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent. In Roman Catholic churches, the priest blesses the ashes from the burned palms of the previous year's Palm Sunday.

With the ashes, he makes a cross on the foreheads of members of the congregation and says, "Remember man, that dust thou art, and unto dust thou shalt return.

Sprinkling oneself with ashes has been a mark of sorrow for sin since Biblical times. Ash Wednesday adds a second lesson to this meaning of penance. It reminds people to prepare for a holy death.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday (March 4) 40 days before Easter, excluding Sundays and ends on Easter Sunday. The term Lent comes from the old English word lencten, which means spring time.

Lent is a part of the regular church year in the Roman Catholic, Protestant Episcopal churches. Other protestant churches hold religious services, meetings or preaching missions to honor the Lenten season.

Many Christians observe Lent by fasting. The season originated as one of spiritual preparation for Easter in remembrance of the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Black histor program at Wayland

The NAACP Yo Council of Wayla Baptist Church, 3 Garrison Blvd., w sponsor a black hist program on Feb. 28 p.m. at the church. T Rev. Darneal Johnson pastor.

Among topics that w be discussed and paneli are Youth In Educati Nettie Millard; Youth Politics, Anthon Pressley; Youth In A tion, John Parker Jr;.

Dr. Jesse McDade w be the speaker. Co mittee members are M Joan E. Cooper, Jam Long, Mrs. Osale Millard and Ms. Fe Shelton.

St. John AME Church observes 125th anniversary

The culminating activity for the 125th anniversary celebration of St. John AME Church will be held Saturday, February 28 at the Convention Center, with the Rev. Dr. Leon H. Sullivan as guest speaker.

Dr. Sullivan is pastor of Zion Baptist Church and founder and national director of Opportunities Industrialization Center in Philadelphia.

The Rev. Dr. Benjamin S. Foust, pastor of St. John stated the church was organized as a mission in October 1856 by the Rev. James R. Sterrit. Rev. A. W. Wayman, pastor of Bethel, assisted in securing a place of worship on Tessier Street. St. John, like Mothel Bethel AME in Philadelphia, started in a blacksmith's shop.

From the time of its organization to 1942, St. John has had 30 pastors. Spiritual renewal services, prayes services and other activities have been held at the church this month as part of the anniversary celebration.

"This Far by Faith," serves as the theme for the first 125 years and "Faith" will continue to be our beacon" as we move forward "This Far By Faith," is the theme for the 125th anniversary. The Rev. Harrison J. Bryant was appointed Pastor of St. John in July 1942. He paid off a second mortgage, which had been standing for sometime. The church was in fine condition and beginning to make plans to pay off the first mortgage.

St. John was destroyed by a fire on March 3, 1943 and services were held with Metropolitan Methodist Church and Allen AME until April 15, 1945 when Rev. Bryant led the return to the new church after its rebuilding. Rev. Bryant, who is now a retired bishop, was Pastor of St. John until 1949.

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AFRO photo by Mark Gail

WOMEN'S DAY — The women of Pennsylvania Avenue AME Zion Church, Pennsylvania Avenue and Dolphin Street, had their annual prayer breakfast last Saturday at the church. Shown from (L) are: Ms. Vickie Peay Sinkler, chairperson of the breakfast; Ms. Leslie Burnett, chairperson for Women's Day; the Rev. Dr. Marshall H. Strickland, pastor and Ms. Phylis S. Scroggins, assistant chairperson of the breakfast.

Metro church briefs

The number two choir of The Church of God, 4310 Edmondson Ave., will sponsor a musical program March 1, 4:30 p.m. The program will feature the Baltimore Washington Concert Choir and other gospel choirs from Washington. Elder Jake Butler is pastor.

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Rev. John R. Bryant, pastor of Bethel AME Church will be the 3:30 p.m. speaker on March 1 at Ray of Hope Baptist Church, Parkside Drive and Harford Road.

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The male and female ushers of Memorial Baptist Church, Caroline and Preston Sts., will observe their anniversary on March 8, 4 p.m. The Rev. Clifford Johnson of Mount Pleasant Baptist Church will be the speaker and the Rev. Angus A. Smith is pastor.

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The black seminarians of St. Mary's Seminary and University will sponsor a memorial mass for the slain black children of Atlanta. The mass will be celebrated 7 p.m. March 1 in the seminary chapel at 5400 Roland Ave.

Mrs. Camille Bell, mother of one of the slain children and chairperson of the Committee To Stop Children's Murders, will be present and offer some reflections.

The film entitled "Jesus" will be shown at the Church of God, 4310 Edmondson Ave. on March 14, 7 p.m.

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Dedication services will be held March 1, 4 p.m. at Union Bethel AME Church, 8502 Liberty Rd. The Rev. John Hurst Adams, presideing bishop of the second Episcopal district will speak and the Rev. Henry Y. White is pastor.

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Joy night services will be held Feb. 27, 7:30 p.m. at Israel Baptist Church, Preston and Chester St. The Rev. Harlie W. Wilson is pastor.

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The Wayland Baptist Church NAACP youth council will sponsor a black history program on Feb. 28, 3 p.m. at the church, 3200 Garrison Blvd. The Rev. Darneal F. Johnson is pastor.

An all night prayer vigil sponsored by Sister Lillian Cornish will be held March 6 at St. Luke United Methodist Church, Gilmor Street and Riggs Ave. The services are being held in memory of the slain black children of Atlanta.

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The names of three churches were omitted last week as contributors to the annual NAACP Jubilee Day. The churches were St. Francis Xavier, $ 500; Central Baptist Church $131 and St. Mark's Institutional Baptist.

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The Renovation and Restoration Committee of John Wesley United Methodist Church, 3202 North Ave., will present "The Slabtown District Convention" featuring John Wesley Senior Choir on March 6, 7:30 p.m. at the church. William D. Parrish is chairman, Leroy Morsell, program director and the Rev. Calvin P. Crosson is pastor.

Black editor Frederick Douglass published the first issue of his abolitionist newspaper, The North Star, in Rochester, N.Y., in 1847.

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ENON BAPTIST CHURCH
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Guest Speaker:
DR. WENDELL C. SOMERVILLE
Executive Secretary-Treasurer

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10:30 A.M.—Open Heart Service
11:00 A.M.—Morning Worship Sermon By The Pastor
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