Birthdays and Parties Celebrations Family Gatherings

THE EASTERN SHORE DESCENDANTS of Harriett Tubman, the Moses of Her People were entertained by the Lillie Carroll Jackson Museum Youth Council as a continuance of the "Tracing Our Roots" features. In the photo are the three generations of Tubmans, Mrs. Geraldine Tubman, Harriett's great niece of Cambridge, Md., and her son and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Tubman and their son, Gordon, of Greenwood, Dela.; Columbia and Baltimore, Md. members, of the Museum, Ronnie Pillow, Todd Tyson, Kent Vincent Blake, Eric Graham, Courtney Graham; Shezetta Oliver, Kurt, Kent, Sonja and Simone Blake, Timothy Walden, Anita Bowman, Julie Bowman, Gail Mitchell, Sarah Garrett, Chris Bigham, Ricky Kelly, John Walden, Joy Bowman, Kim Kelly, Angela Walden.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY — Maurice and Lisa Purvis, children of Maurice Sr. and Carrie Purvis, saluted their godmother, Mrs. Ruth Shivers at a surprise birthday party in the Elderon Ave. home. Mrs. Shivers is the wife of Rev. David Shivers who is associate minister of Fountain Baptist Church. Others at the event were Mr. and Mrs. Archie Jones, Langston House, Charles Taylor, Mrs. Ethel Simmons and Mrs. Letha Jenkins.

MRS. GERALDINE TUBMAN received honors and the pewter plate from the citizens of Baltimore and Mayor Schaefer represented by Mrs. Cortez (Geneva) Puryear.

MRS. VINCENT BLAKE of Columbia, chairman of the Museum Youth Division, sang one of her own compositions for the Tubmans. With her are Todd Tyson, Kent Blake, Eric Graham, Ronnie Pillow and Shezetta Oliver, all of Columbia.

DR. ALTHEA SIMMONS, the director of the Washington Bureau NAACP speaks at the March 19-March 21 Energy Symposium sponsored by the BG and E Co. at the University of Maryland College Park Center of Adult Education. The event for journalist and the media has as main speaker Sen. James McClure, the new chairman of the Senate Energy Commission.

THE MUSEUM FAMILY with the Tubman Eastern Shore family seated on the front row: Mrs. Viola Jackson, director; Ernest Tubman, his mother, Mrs. Geraldine Tubman; his wife, Mrs. Ardena Tubman; his son, Gordon Tubman. Also, board members, Ethel Gordon, membership chairman; Elizabeth M. Oliver, Florence McDonald, principal, School 122 and Eastern Shore family member; Ruteena Blake, Ardell Vesselle, museum co-director; Gwendolyn Clark, Columbia; Jesse Gladden, banquet chairman; Juanita Mitchell, Dr. Daniel Nicolas, Lawson Vessells, noted musician and Gail Mitchell.

THE YOUNG FAMILY, all relatives of the late Dr. Josephine Young, danced, sang and played in honor of the Tubmans. They are Timothy Walden, Ricky Kelly, John Walden, Hope Bowman, Kimberly Kelly, Angela Walden, Anita Bowman and Joy Bowman.

FAMOUS COUPLE — Celebrating his 70th birthday are Attorney and Mrs. Clarence Mitchell Jr. who met with their children, grandchildren and other relatives for a dinner party and to cut his cake which was complete with 70 candles. The birthday portrait is by AFRO photographer Mark Gail. The Mitchells of Baltimore have been married 45 years. They still reside in their Druid Hill Avenue home where they reared their four sons, Keiffer, successful physician; Michael, an attorney and City Council member; George, a contractor and State Senator Clarence M. Mitchell III.

BIRTHDAY PARTY celebrating the 70 years to the date, March 8, 1981, for Clarence Mitchell Jr., the senior member of the clan, included the members of the family, all of them except Congressman Parren J. Mitchell, his brother, who was out of town. In the photo are the honoree who is called the 101st U.S. Senator; his wife, Attorney Juanita J. Mitchell; their son, Dr. Keiffer Mitchell and his wife Nannette, who were the party hosts at their St. Paul Street home; their children, Keiffer Jr., Kelly Juanita and Kathleen Jennifer; a second son, Senator Clarence Mitchell III; his children, Lisa and Clarence IV; third son, the attorney and City Councilman Michael B. Mitchell, his wife and children, Michael Jr., Micah, age 3 and Jenifer; the fourth son, contractor George Mitchell, wife and children, George and Karla; the honoree's sister, Mrs. Anna Mitchell Gittings; his brother, George Mitchell and brother and sister-in-law, Bowen Jackson.

MARK GAIL PHOTO

THE LIVING CHURCH

Where is Christianity failing?

By Sue Williams
AFRO Staff Writer

There are some complaints about this thing called Christianity.

People from the outside looking in say that Christians are a lot of poppycock; that they get caught up in a lot of holy talk with little action to substantiate it all. They look with scorn upon the ministers who live in six-bedroom houses and drive Mercedes-Benz automobiles, while many of their parishioners scuffle along from day to day.

Drunks on the street behold Christians quizzically, wondering about this prayer thing they talk about so much, this experience that is supposed to be the answer to everything...except their drunkenness.

And "members," safe on the inside of the church walls, for some reason, are unable, for the large part, to penetrate the hearts, lives and minds of those who are seeking, and who would like to grasp onto something to try to make sense out of their confused and tattered lives.

There must be a simple answer to why the Christian faith, which adheres to the greatest teacher this world has ever known, is faltering, or has faltered so in the past. There seems to be a big contradiction between following Jesus, who is, after all, the essence of Love...and living a life that somehow manages to misfire its direction and actions over and over again.

Why?

The Rev. Carolyn Showell offers a few answers.

"I think the church is guilty of not nurturing Christians," she said. "The church refuses to recognize what happens to individuals when they accept the faith. There is a process of development that has to happen..."

Rev. Showell analogized. She said new Christians are babies, in the most literal sense of the word.

She said that, just as a new baby falls repeatedly as he learns to walk, only to be picked up by his parents, so does the new Christian fall. The church is the parent ... that is not there, for the most part to pick up the struggling infant.

"Look at a real baby," she said. "His falling is not for the purpose of being rejected, or being told by his mother and father that he is not worthy to live in the house...he falls to help him learn how to walk."

"The way you are weaned from the world into the church determines how you live later on," she said, "just like babies who are weaned from their mothers. If the process is rough or abusive, then so will be the product. If there is a lack of love and consideration...then the child will reflect the same."

Consider the Christian baby.

Because the church does not wean with love and support, the new Christian cannot give love and support. Which is a travesty, says Showell, considering the fact that love and support is what Jesus is and was all about. As the new Christian falters and searches for his rightful place, he by human nature cannot exemplify the principles he knows about, just like the baby who has never been shown love show love to others. Out of insecurity, he snaps, he fusses, and he struggles within himself, trying to find a reason for his imbalance.

Naturally somebody suffers. The Christian baby suffers. The observers looking in, searching for the goodness of Christianity suffer...and the church itself suffers because it has failed in one of its most important evangelistic tasks.

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HERITAGE BANQUET — The 125th anniversary of St. John AME Church, 810 Carrollton Ave., was observed recently at the Convention Center. Active members who were seen at the banquet shown are the Rev. Gertrude Well, associate minister, Mrs. Ray Mildred Moore and Mrs. Estelia Hargrove. Mrs. Moore and Mrs. Hargrove have been members of St. John since 1911.

AFRO Photo by Roman Hankewycz

REUNION OF AME MINISTERS — Retired Bishop Harrison Bryant, who was formerly the pastor of St. John AME Church at 810 Carrollton Ave., is shown talking with friends at the heritage banquet held Feb. 28. Show with Bishop Bryant from (L) are the Rev. Dr. Benjamin S. Foust, pastor of St. John, the Rev. Dr. Leon H. Sullivan, banquet speaker and the Rev. Isaac M. Gray who succeeded Bishop Bryant as pastor of St. John and is now retired.

AFRO Photo by Roman Hankewycz

Catholic archdiocese treis to prevent housing project

The Roman Catholic Archdiocese is supporting a parish's battle to prevent a senior citizen housing project from being built on a vacant lot next to the parish church.

St. Casimir's Church, with a predominantly Polish-American congregation, opposes a plan by the Lemko Corporation to build the 110 unit housing project because church memebrs believe construction would damage church buildings.

But Rev. Ivan Dornic, pastor of St. Michael's Byzantine rite church and a member of the Lemko Corp., maintains the opposition is based on fears that federally funded housing will move black residents into the predominantly white canton area.

The project, planned since 1977, was to have been financed with a $4.7 million loan guarantee from the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. But the guarantee was tied to the lot adjacent to St. Casimir's.

The most Rev. J. Francis Stafford, appointed by Archbishop William Borders to mediate the dispute, said the pastor and members of St. Casimir's "continue to be motivated in their position on the Lemko project only by a concern for the physical integrity of their magnificent church."

Angels of Harmony to sing at New Shiloh

The Angels of Harmony will present a program of gospel music and testimony at New Shiloh Baptist Church, Fremont Avenue and Lanvale Street on March 21, 11 a.m.

Members of the group are from Eastern College, St. Davis, Pa., and has warmed the hearts of audiences throughout the Delaware Valley, the American Baptist Churches National Convention in Atlantic City and a multitude of churches.

They also performed in concert with Andrae Crouch and The Disciples. The Rev. Dr. Harold A. Carter is pastor of New Shilor.

GOSPEL GRACE — Mrs. Yvonnie "Tobie" Robinson and Ricky McCormick can be heard every Sunday as they enfer the home of hundreds of their listeners through their program "Gospel Grace" heard over WEAA - FM 1 to 4 p.m.

AFRO Photo by Mark Gail

Friends honor Rev. W. Johnson

More than 400 guests were seen at a testimonial recently honoring the Rev. William E. Johnson, pastor of Union Baptist Church in Turner Station. The affair was held at LaFontaine Bleu with Dr. Uthman Ray Jr., serving as toastmaster.

Greetings were extended by community leaders, ministers and friends of the honoree. Rev. Johnson is the former director of Pastoral Care Department of Provident Hospital.

He was described as a person who has a "warm attitude of care and concern for people." He is the first vice president of the Baptist Ministers Conference and has served as vice president of the Baptist Pastors Conference.

His community involvement includes serving as an organizer for the Maryland Ecumenical Chaplain Association; Constant Care Community Holistic Workshop and the Turner Station Development Corporation.

Hostesses for the banquet were the Rev. Wilhelmina Spears, Joanne Bradley, Jacqueline Brotton, Belva Scott, Sonia Stockton, Patricia Foster and David Poole.

Metro Church Briefs

The Women's Society will present the Norman Muldrow Male Chorus in concert on Sunday, March 15, 3 p.m. at 2105 McCulloh St.

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

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The 25th annual concert of male choirs of Maryland will be held March 15, 7 p.m. at Mt. Olive Freewill Baptist Church. Among groups that will be singing are Fountain Baptist, Southern Baptist, Faith Baptist, First Mt. Olive Freewill Baptist, First Apostolic and Community Baptist Choir.

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The Grand Family Reunion will have their meeting March 14, 1 p.m. at Berean Baptist Church, 5200 Denmore Ave. The Rev. John Lunn is pastor.

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Southern Baptist Church members will worship at Christian Community Church of God, 2701 Baltimore St. at 4 p.m. March 15. The Rev. Nathaniel Higgs is pastor of Southern.

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The Rev. P. M. Smith, associate minister of First Baptist Church, 525 Caroline St. will be the guest speaker at Faith Baptist Church Men's Prayer breakfast on March 21, 7:30 a.m. at Ashland and Bond Street. The Rev. Walter Paige is pastor of Faith.

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Mount Pleasant Baptist Church will hosts its annual revival March 15 to 20 at 1801 Preston St. The Rev. Charles Walker of Philadelphia will be the speaker and services will begin at 7:30 p.m.

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The Reborn Singers will be singing March 28, 7:30 p.m. at New Refuge Deliverance Holiness Church, 2045 Monument St. Bishop Naomi C. Durant is pastor.

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Members of Sharp Street Memorial United Methodist Church, Dolphin and Etting Street will present Bethune Cookman Choir in a concert on March 22, 3:30 p.m.

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The Pastor's Aid of Perkins Square Baptist Church, 2500 Edmondson Ave., will observe their annual day on March 22 at the 8 and 11 a.m. services. Mrs. Willie Mae Boone is president and the Rev. Richard Ogle is pastor.

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Free of Life Bible Church, 109 Poppleton St., will celebrate its annual family and homecoming day on March 22, 4 p.m. Elder Lassiter E. Basket will be the speaker

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The Youth Choir of Maryland of God In Christ will be having their youth outreach jubilee service at 5100 Denmore Ave on March 14, 8 p.m. The Wilson Singers of Brown Memorial Baptist Church will be special guest.

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The women of Ray of Hope Baptist Church, 3000 Parkside Drive will celbrate Women's Day on March 15. Mrs. Betty Johnson, president of the Women's Auxiliary of the United Baptist Missionary Convention will be the morning speaker.

At 4 p.m. the Women's Day Choir will be singing. The Rev Charles M. Franklin Sr., is pastor and Mrs. Bernadette McGuire is chairman of publicity.

The senior female ushers of Simmons Memorial Baptist Church, Cumberland and Pennsylvania Ave., will sponsor a one night revival service on March 20, 7:30 p.m. The Rev. Wallace Poole, pastor of First Missionary Baptist Church will be the speaker. Mrs Ida Brown is chairperson, Mrs. Mary Madden, co-chairperson and the Rev. William King is pastor

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The women's chorus of Wayland will sponsor the Chancel Ensemble Choir in a concert on March 22, 3 p.m. at 3200 Garrison Blvd. Mrs. Carolyn Thompson is president and the Rev. Darneal Johnson is pastor

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The women of Payne Memorial AME Church, Madison Avenue and Laurens Street will celebrate their 84th annual Women's Day on March 13. The Rev. Mrs. Mary Sullivan of Bethel AME Church, Easton, Md. is the 8 a.m. speaker.

Dr. E. Fran Johnson from Union Baptist is the 11 a.m. speaker and Rev. Alfreda L. Wiggins of Lewin United Methodist Church is the 3:30 p.m. speaker. Mrs. Muriel Moore is chairman, Mrs. Sophia Wilkins, chairman of publicity and the Rev. W. P. Mitchell is pastor.

WOMEN'S DAY SPEAKER — Dr. Anne O. Emery, assistant superintendent of public relations Baltimore public schools and former principal of Walbrook Senior High School, will be the 11 a.m. speaker Sunday at Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church for Women's Day. She will be speaking on the theme "Women Fulfilling New Roles in the Church."

F.R.E.D. banquet held March 19

The annual banquet sponsored by the F.R.E.D. (Fund, Raising, Extension Drive) Committee will be held March 19 at Martin's West.

The FRED committee was formed in January 1970 following a fire that damaged the Maryland Baptist Aged Home at 2801-03 Rayner Ave. proceeds from the banquet are used to pay for the renovation of the home.

The committee was originally known as Fire Renovation Expansion Drive but changed its name after the dedication of the renovation of the building.

Churches, clubs or any individual who contributes $100 will have their name engraved in the gold book of memory that hangs on the wall in the Baptist Home.

Charles H. Smith, national deputy executive director of the NAACP will be the speaker at the banquet. The Rev. Lorenzo Graves is chairman of the committee.

Smith has received numerous awards for his service in the cause of human rights. His career has been recognized in civic educational, religious, civil rights and government areas of life. He is nationally recognized for his perception in the field of civil rights and ability to communicate as a speaker.

F.R.E.D. committee members are Miss Helen Benton, co-chairperson; Mrs. Bessie Mason, co-chairperson and Mrs. Marjorie R. Green, secretary.

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Charles H. Smith

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