THE LIVING CHURCH

A Christmas Message

'Life can be beautiful'

By Rev. Dr. Harold A. Carter
New Shiloh Baptist

Earlier this week, the faculty and community leaders of Mary E. Rodman School 204 gathered in the school recreation center to share a prayer breakfast. This was a first occasion for this kind of sharing experience. Why a prayer breakfast at Christmas time?

Because deep down in all human life is the sense that life can be beautiful. All education is built on the fundamental beliefs that all persons can be enlightened. All persons can be trained to be productive. All persons can share in the community of love, of mutual respect, one with another.

This noble belief is tragically married this Christmas 1981. It is marred by the "Herod" mentality that would seek to build the ways of war while denying the precious gifts of life children, senior citizens, community needs.

It is marred by the crush of the human spirit seeking freedom in countries like Poland and the denial of the pursuit of freedom by impoverished Haitians, modern day Lazarus begging crumbs from the rich Americians' table. It is marred by the breakdown of common respect and morality, so that our own sons and daughters end up killing mothers and fathers for the deathly pursuit of hedonistic pleasure of drugs, wine, sex and song. No one of us can deny the ugly side of the human spirit, but Christmas comes to affirm the divine side, the deeper side, the side that makes the lasting difference.

Life can be beautiful precisely because Jesus stepped into our humanity and showed us the face of God. We learn from those teachers whose lives touch us far more than from those who spew out endless words. Life can be beautiful because Jesus has shown us. In Him we have seen

Rev. Dr. Harold A. Carter

the way of love, we have seen the power of forgiveness. Life can be beautiful because in Jesus we all have the perfect picture of just what our lives ought to be.

I believe the teachers at Mary E. Rodman School are no different from teachers in any school. They want only to make the lives of growing boys and girls beautiful. They want to leave some lasting influence of love. They realize that one person, one solitary, yet public life, has shown us the way. That person is both our ancient and modern teacher and best friend, Jesus, son of God.

We celebrate many holidays during the year. Only Christmas can be said to awaken the spirits of saints and sinners, good and bad, westerner and oriental.

No one can live on planet earth and not at some point hear about the life, birth, death, resurrection of one who taught us indeed that life can be beautiful. A great day will come when everyone can say, "My life is beautiful because of him."

The Feast of Kwanzaa

By Delois Lindsay Newton

Kwanzaa is an Afro-American holiday. The concept of Kwanzaa as a holiday of "first fruits" comes directly from the tradition of certain times of the year.

However, despite the fact that Afro-Americans are essentially an urban people and have few crops to harvest, the Kawida concept of "in gathering and celebration" forms the conceptual basis for the creation and celebration of Kwanzaa in the United States.

Kwanzaa was first celebrated on Dec. 26, 1966 in Los Angeles, California. Its origins as a cultural idea were first expressed by "US" (United States) organization members through its leader Dr. M. Ron Karenga, a leading theorist of the black movement.

The Kwanzaa holiday is observed from the 26th of December through the first day of January. Kwanzaa consciousness is practiced throughout the year by Kwanzaa advocates.

Kwanzaa has definite principles, practices and symbols which are geared to the social and spiritual needs of Afro-America.

Its reinforcing overtures, often called rituals, are designed to strengthen our collective concept as a people, honor our past, critically evaluate our present and commit ourselves to a fuller more productive future.

This essentially means observing principles and engaging in practices social in origin, focus and purpose. Thus, the core principles of Kwanzaa are the Nguzo Sabe (The Seven Principles) which were developed and proposed during the Black Cultural Revolution as a set of principles by which black people should live in order to begin to rescue and reconstruct our history and lives.

These principles provide a format for us to use to relate to each other and rebuild our lives in our own images. They require that we confront ourselves and begin to break the monopoly on our minds held by negative and deforming values of the dominant society. The seven principles are:

Umoja (Unity) To strive for and maintain unity in the family, community nation and the race.

Kujichagulia (Self Determination) To define ourselves, name ourselves, create for ourselves and speak for ourselves instead of being defined, named, created for and spoken for by others.

Ujima (Collective Work and Responsibility) To build and maintain our community together and make our sisters' and brothers' problems ours and to solve them together.

Ujamaa (Cooperative Economics) To build and maintain our own stores, shops and other businesses adnd profit from them together.

NIA (Purpose) To make our collective vocation the building and developing of our community in order to restore our people to their traditional greatness.

Kuumba (Creativity) To do always as much as we can, in the way we can, in order to leave our community more beautiful and beneficial than we inherited it.

Imani (Faith) To believe with all our hearts in our people, our parents, our teachers, our leaders and the righteousness and victory of our people.

Kwanzaa is fundamentally a holiday for black people in the United States.

Religious highlights of 1981

VASHTI McKENZIE, one of Baltimore's local gospel announcers and general manager of WAYE radio, was honored in June at the 14th annual convention of the Gospel Music Workshop of America Inc., that was held in California. Mrs. McKenzie received the gospel announcer of the year award from the Gospel Announcers Guild. She also preached her trial sermon June 6, at Bethel AME Church where she is an active member.

DEAN OF RELIGIOUS ANNOUNCERS — Mrs. Pauline Wells Lewis, who is fondly called "Aunt Pauline" received a gold record in June at the Gospel Music Workshop of America Inc. She is the dean of religious announcers and has been involved with gospel on the radio since 1942.

APPRECIATION DINNER — Mrs. Brenda J. Greene, former minister of Christian education at New Shiloh Baptist Church, Fremont Avenue and Lanvale Street for 11 years, was honored at the church in June. Mrs. Greene is shown with her husband, the Rev. Darrell S. Greene, pastor of Martin Luther King Memorial Church in Columbia, where she is now a member. Installation services were also held this year for the new pastor, Rev. Greene.

NEW ASSISTANT PASTOR — The Rev. Mrs. Cynthia Jones, daughter of the Rev. Dr. Arthur E. and Mrs. Clotele V. Jones was appointed assistant pastor of Jones Tabernacle Baptist Church in March. Her father is the pastor of the church. Before her appointment, she served as an administrative assistant to Rev. Jones. She is the third generation minister of Jones Tabernacle. In addition to her ministerial responsibilities, she is a certified medical technologist at Provident Hospital.

Season's Greetings

The Rev. Marcus G. Wood

PROVIDENCE BAPTIST CHURCH at Pennsylvania and Lafayette Avenues in West Baltimore is the city's first solar-heated church. It is perhaps the nation's first energy efficient edifice. Dedication was Feb. 1, 1981. Grand opening worship was 10:30 a.m. Feb. 8, and started with a march from Constant Care parking lot, Mosher and Division Streets. The Rev. Marcus G. Wood is pastor of the $1.3 million new facility.

FORMER PRESIDENTS who were honored at the annual session of the United Baptist Missionary Convention Inc. and Auxiliaries of Maryland in June, shown from left are Miss Helen Benton, Mrs. Mary L. Harrington and Mrs. Betty L. Johnson. The five day convention was held at Perkins Square Baptist Church, where the Rev. Richard H. Ogle is pastor.

Bethel AME Church, Druid Hill Avenue and Lanvale Street will have watchnight services on Thursday, Dec. 31, 10:30 p.m. The Rev. John R. Bryant is pastor.

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Archbishop Borders will be the principal celebrant of the Christmas midnight mass at the Cathedral of Mary Our Queen, 5200 Charles St. He will be assisted by William C. Newman, rector of the cathedral and other members of the cathedral staff.

Metro Church Briefs

The Howard County branch of the NAACP will have Christmas Eve services on Dec. 24, 10 p.m. at First Baptist Church of Guilford, 7504 Oakland Mills Rd. The Rev. Dr. Arthur Jones, pastor of Jones Tabernacle Baptist Church will be the speaker. Dr. Silas Craft is president and the Rev. John L. Wright is chairman of religious affairs.

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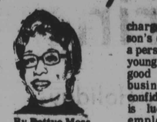
The Ministerial Alliance of Maryland will present an Emancipation Proclamation celebration on Jan. 1, 11 a.m. at First Baptist Church, 7504 Oaklind Mills Rd. The Rev. Dr. Joseph Lowery, national president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference will be the speaker.

For coverage of any church events, mail your announcements to Ms. Pam Widgeon, religious editor, 628 N. Eutaw St., Baltimore, Md. 21201 or call 728-8200 Monday through Friday afternoon.

There is no charge for news or photographic coverage. Publication of any church news is contigent upon factors of time and news space available and organizations from all religious denominations, as space permits.

If you ask me



By Bettye Moss

Hats off!

Our salute this week goes to the gas man.

When he rang our bell on Thursday, (Dec. 19), and yelled, "gas man," we opened the door automatically.

It was not until he was inside that we noticed he was not the regular blond man. He was brown-skinned, and wore a brown cap.

He sensed we were startled, but he didn't let on. We directed him to the meter.

When he had finished, he wished us a "nice holiday." We could not resist the temptation to ask him whether others were surprised to see him.

Some were, he said, but added that he had been reading meters for 18 months.

He is 21 - years - old Wayne Watson, a 1978 graduate of Walbrook High School. He is one of three children of the Larry Watsons.

His dad runs a filling station at North and Pulaski, and he has been learning some auto mechanics under his direction.

Young Watson hopes he qualifies for a promotion with the Gas and Electric Co. soon.

Note to supervisor in charge of Wayne Watson's department: He is a personable and earnest young man who makes a good impression, very business - like and confident. Your comany is lucky to have an employee like Wayne Watson.

Hats off to Wayne Watson, and a "nice holiday" to him, too.

Continue your nominations to this column's Hats Off section. We seek here to feature young people doing good things.

Reason: too many adults are quick to criticize our young people when they do poorly. Not too many take time to praise them when they do well. Hats off!

Committee X

Committee X - 71 members did it again on Saturday afternoon.

Their tenth annual Christmas party at Blue Crest was a joyous occasion.

Members are men of diverse backgrounds who organized in 1971 as a planning committee for a Yule party to entertain friends.

They enjoyed each other's company so much, that they have arranged a yule affair yearly.

On their unique red and white invitations they explained, "We have found in each other's humor, integrity, candor and resolve a ready source of strength . . . this tenth annual party is an expression of love to those dear to us, for whom we are grateful for their being . . ."

And love was shining out all over — from the minute you entered the Reisterstown Rd. hall - for - cocktails and chatter, during the dinner hour, and right on through the last dance to the music of Dennis Fisher.

Highlight

Not content to enjoy themselves, Committee X - 71 members did a nice thing.

They invited a group of teenage musicians to entertain.

The Polytechnic High Jazz Ensemble, directed by Charles O. Funn, sounded and looked good. How proud guests were of these young people — average age 17!!

Dressed in tux, they stood at attention until they were introduced and took over the bandstand.

These Poly jazz players use any donations they get to add to their band fund. Committee X - 71 members thought it was a good idea to let their friends know these talented young people are available. It was.

Mr. Funn, director of the group is instumental instructor at Poly and at two city elementary schools. (He played bass guitar on Saturday).

Who they are

Here are names of the young people who appeared: Jonathan Barnes, Ralph Bradley, Troy Whitehead and Eric Mohand, trumpet players; Bruce Campbell, Valencio DeShields and Norman Anderson, trombonists;

Rodney Sullivan, Craig Fowler and Daniel McLelland, sax players; Andrew Sewell, drummer.

Manager of the group is Vincent Fields.

Other members of the combo — an integrated group — who were not present are: Sax players, Charles Myles and Andrew Wright; trombonists, Vincent Harris and Jeff Chase; and trumpet player, Darren Bagley.

Here are members of Committee X - 71: George B. Barrick, Charles W. Cephas, Malcolm Chamberlain, Marvin C. Davis, Ben H. Foreman, Cornelius Griffin, J. Wilson Henson,

Also, Charles G. Hillen, William V. Lockwood, Charles H. Lynch, Cyrus Marshall, Charles C. Mason, Robert L. Payne, Lewis H. Richardson;

And, Wellington S. Ross, Paul F. Scott, John S. Ward and Alfred A. Woodland.

Cuff note: When the young jazz musicians concluded their performance, party guests gave them resounding applause.

More cuff: Among guests at the party — Lloyd and Becky Davis, here from the Dominican Republic, visiting hometown relatives and friends in Baltimore.

They'll be here until the end of January when they return to Santo Domingo where Mr Davis is the consular for administration in the American Embassy.

FAITH E. THOMAS — New lawyer has beauty and brains.

Quettes shine

More people being kind to others at Christmas: — The Quettes, an auxiliary of wives and sweethearts of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity men, held a Christmas party a Saturday ago. (Dec. 12).

They returned to a traditional Christmas party setting! Rather than hire a hall, Quette Shirley Bennett opened her home for more than 40 Omega men and Quettes.

Others assisting were, Irene Carter, Barbara Hart, and Goldie Wood, auxiliary president.

Since the party did not require funds, a Christmas basket, as well as a cash contribution were given to the Anna Mae Hunter Home for the Blind.

Footnote — Pi Omega Chapter, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, went a step further this Christmas season.

Noting that organizations established to help the needy were hard pressed for funds, they increased their gift to the AFRO's Mrs. Santa to $160, and also made a contribution to Santa Claus Anonymous.

Yule sadness

Sympathy to the family of Mrs. Dorothy Foster Bennett, 59, principal of Rosemont Elementary School, and a dynamite educator in the Baltimore city public schools.

Many parents, children, and community workers will remember her as a caring person who gave her all to the advancement of young people.

Mrs. Bennett was eulogized on Friday evening at Madison Ave. Presbyterian Church. She had been ailing for over a year.

Her mother, Mrs. Dora E. Foster; son, Rufus Washington and five sisters and five brothers survive.

They are: Mozell Johnson, Delores Bell, Betty Washington, Jean Ware, Evelyn Majua, Samuel, Robert, Frank, Dennis and James Foster.

Another large family struck by sadness this Christmas season: Remember relatives of Conrad Robert Amos, 69, retired long distance truck driver. He was eulogized Nov. 27.

Mr. Amos was the son of Robert and Ethel Smith Amos. For years, the family lived in the 3100 block Barclay St. in East Baltimore.

Surviving sisters: Dorothy Savage, Ethel Smith, Jimmy Laforest, Justine Walker, all of Baltimore; Irene Kirkildy, N.Y., and Jessie Gregory, VA.

And, brother Howard Amos, and 21 grandchildren, 8 great grandchildren.

D. John Peters, he's husband of AFRO's Ida Murphy Peters), lost his only grandson on Sunday.

21 - year - old Brian Kevin Pryor, suffered fatal injuries while playing touch football on Sunday near his Hyattsville, MD. home. He was a student at the U. of MD.

Funeral services were Wednesday evening. His parents are Stephanie and Ellsworth (Sonny) Pryor at 7306 - 16th Place, Hyattsville, MD., 20783.

Here for the rites were aunt, Delmar Peters, Chicago; and uncle, Charles Peters, Oakland, CA.

New lawyer

Beauty and brains are the trademark of a new female lawyer in our area.

She is Faith Elise Thomas who was sworn in as a member of the Maryland bar on Dec. 11.

Currently, she is employed in the Administrative Law Office, Office of the General Counsel, Department of Housing and Urban Development, in DC.

She graduated summa cum laude, (with highest honors — from Morgan State University, and earned her law degree at Georgetown University Law Center over in D.C.

She concentrated in international and corporate law. Plus, she is fluent in French, has studied Greek and German, and is now studying Chinese.

She is also a member of the American Bar Association and the DC Bar.

Md. ties

Attorney Thomas did her pre - college studies at Key School in Annapolis.

Her parents are Dr. and Mrs. Richard G. Thomas Jr. of Harwood, MD. They were present for her swearing - in. Dad is principal of Randallstown Senior High.

Mother, Mrs. Myra Thomas, is chief of the U.S. Department of Education's Information Center.

There are deep Maryland ties - paternal grandpop on the late Richard G. Thomas Sr., established the well - known Thomas Motor Tours Co., still operating in Lothian, MD.

Many know the new lawyer's aunt, Thelma T. Daley, former national president of Delta Sigma Theta, the national service sorority.

Cuff note: The new lawyer's brother is also outstanding. He is a graduate of Roger Williams College in Bristol, RI, and has completed its first year in pharmacy at Creighton University in Omaha, NE.

WAITING FOR SANTA — More than 500 children were seen last Sunday at the annual Christmas party sponsored by Santa's Children Inc. and the Coppin State College Student Government Association. Ralph Hughes is president of Santa's Children Inc., a non-profit organization.

Hampton choir in Xmas concert

VIRGINIA BEACH — The Christian Broadcasting Network and the Hampton Institute Choir will collaborate to produce the United States' segment of a 60-minute television special, "Star Over Bethlehem," to be seen live via satellite in 23 nations on Christmas Eve.

"Star Over Bethlehem" will be seen in the U.S. exclusively on CBN Satellite Network, the nation's second largest satellite - cable television programmer with 2,798 affiliated cable systems wired to more than 14 million homes.

The international special, featuring choral music from around the world, is being produced by the British Broadcasting Corporation. CBN is producing the U.S. segment, which is eight minutes and will originate live from the CBN headquarters building in Virginia Beach, VA. CBN, which began satellite telecasting in 1977, leases a transponder on RCA's Satcom I, which will provide the global TV linkup for the U.S.

The special will be televised live on Thursday, Dec. 24, from 4 to 5 p.m. (EST, and will be repreated on CBN from 11 p.m. to midnight.

Edwin Hawkins marks new milestone

"Imagine Heaven", Edwin Hawkins' first album for PolyGram's new label, Lection Records, marks anther milestone in a career already encompassing numerous ground-breaking achievements. Since 1969, when the joyous "Oh Happy Day" topped the pop and gospel charts, Hawkins has found unusual, and unusually successful, ways to spread the message of his Church through a brand of contemporary gospel music that is as catchy and "popular" as it is heartfelt.

He has appeared at venues as diverse as Madison Square Garden and Caesar's Palace in Las Vegas, and made history mixing gospel with the classics, performing with various Symphonies across the United States and Europe.

For his efforts, he has been rewarded greatly. He has been acclaimed throughout the world, and awarded three Grammy awards. Hawkins' remarkable stature seems a natural extension of an involvement in music that actively dates back to his early childhood.

Hawkins began singing with his family, appropriately known as the Hawkins Family. At age 5, he started playing the piano without any formal training, but with "a gift from heaven". He took up the organ at 16: at about the same time, he became a choir director after having sung for years in numerous churches in the San Francisco Bay area. (Oakland, Cal. has been his lifelong home).

Hawkins and the Northern California State Youth Choir originally recorded "Oh Happy Day" on a two-track tape in a church, intending a handsale of perhaps 500 copies. Soon, a second pressing of 1000 additional records sold out. Then, somehow, KSAN, an underground rock station in San Francisco, picked up on the record, and it started getting airplay in New York. Buddah Records acquired "Oh Happy Day" for national release, and before long the record crossed all musical boundaries, establishing Hawkins and his choir-now known as the Edwin Hawkins Singers, as the leaders in contemporary gospel music.

Other hits followed (among them "Every Man Wants To Be Free" an award-winner in 1970). But after leaving Buddah and releasing two LPs on a gospel label, Birthright, Hawkins ceased recording to devote his energies to family, church, and community choir performance work.

In 1978, Hawkins reasserted his leadership in contemporary gospel music, finding yet another original means to spread his message and his music. He explains that he had a vision in which he and his church choir performed with a symphony orchestra. Acting on that vision, he met with the head of the Oakland Symphony. Fortuitously, the Symphony had been seeking ways to involve the community in its work. The result, a merger of symphony music and gospel.

Hawkins and the Edwin Hawkins Singers headlined the opening night of the Oakland Symphony's pop series, sold out house, and stopped the show. The next season saw an encore performance that was filmed and aired nationwide by PBS as "Edwin Hawkins: Gospel at the Symphony". Since then, Hawkins and his choir have twice peformed with the National Symphony in Washington, D.C. at the Kennedy Center, and also with the Kansas City Philharmonic.

Little Ark Missionary Baptist Church
1263 E. North Avenue
Rev. Matthew Marcus, Pastor
"Where No Strangers Are Met"
Sunday, December 27, 1981
Holy Communion Sunday
9:30 A.M. — Sunday School
10:45 A.M. — Devotions
11:00 A.M. — Morning Service
Sermon by pastor
Holy Communion follows morning service.
5:00 P.M. — Christmas Concert (Combined Choirs of the church)
Thursday, December 31, 1981 — 10:00 P.M.
"Watch Night Service"
Refreshments Will Be Served

Season Greeting
Moved To New Location
NEW TRINITY CHURCH
National Congregation Church of America
4200 Liberty Heights Ave.
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 27, 1981
10:30 A.M. — Sunday School
12:15 P.M. — High Noon — Morning Worship Sermon By the Pastor
3:00 P.M. — By Special Notice
8:00 P.M. — By Special Notice
Wednesday 7:30 P.M. — Prayer Meeting held in the chapel
10:00 P.M. — Watch Night Service
Bishop M. D. Norton Sr., D.D.
Founder & Pastor
ALL ARE WELCOME

1881 1981
PERKINS SQUARE BAPTIST CHURCH
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 27, 1981
Baptist Training Union Day
8:00 A.M. — Early Morning Worship Sermon by the pastor
9:15 A.M. — Church School — New Members' Class
10:30 A.M. — Open Heart Service
11:00 A.M. — Morning Worship — Sermon by
3:00 P.M. — Historical Events Sermon by the pastor
Program of Centennial Activities
6:00 P.M. — BTU and New Members' Class
REV. RICHARD OGLE Pastor

MORNING STAR BAPTIST CHURCH
"The Witnessing Church"
1083 West Fayette Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21223
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13, 1981
8:00 A.M. — SPIRITUAL PRAYER AND HEALING SERVICE Music: Bro. Robert Jackson
9:00 A.M. — CHURCH SCHOOL Ms. Juanita Gaither, Superintendent
9:25 A.M. — CHURCH TRAINING Dea. James Gilliard, Director
10:50 A.M. — MORNING WORSHIP Preaching, Rev. Dr. Samuel Ray "God is With Us"
Everyone Is Invited to These Services
Reverend Dr. Samuel Ray, Pastor

ST. JAMES' EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Lafayette Square, Baltimore, Maryland
The Reverend Donald O. Wilson, Rector
Dr. Robert T. Ford, Deacon
Maurice Murphy, organist - Choirmaster
8:00 A.M. — Holy Communion
9:00 A.M. Church School
11:00 A.M. — Choral Eucharist Sermon
The Public is Cordially Invited To Attend

DOUGLAS COMMUNITY CHURCH
"The People of the Way"
Lafayette and Madison Aves
MARION CURTIS BASCOM D.D. Minister
Agnes G. Hammond, M. Mus. JUANITA HALL DAVIS Organist
Sunday, December 27, 1981
Ten O'Clock Service
Marion Curtis Bascom Preaching
'The Angel Gabriel' — Ronald Arnatt
'Star Carol' — John Rutter
'Hallelujah Chorus' — George F. Handel

Season's Greetings and Best Wishes for the New Year
From your Quality Robe People
BACHMAN TAILORING COMPANY
We feature beautiful robes in all the newest styles. New wonder fabrics of 100 percent dacron polyester. Wide selection of colors.
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St. Bonaventure's Prayer
13th Century
"Come, All Ye Faithful, Joyful and Triumphant Come and Adore the Lord."
From The Directors
Herbert E. Nutter — Vivian O. Nutter
Ernest Nutter — C. Michael T. Nutter
and the Staff of
NUTTER FUNERAL HOME
3035 -37 W. North Ave.
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