



SHARON CANTILLON/Buffalo News

Reliving the escape from slavery

Dressed in 19th century clothing, members of the Bethel Sunbeam Choir from Bethel AME Church stand on the banks of the Niagara River Monday during announcement of an Aug. 10 re-enactment of an Underground Railroad slave

crossing to Canada. Standing are, from left, first row, David Cobb, LaToya Cunningham and Brianka Trueheart; second row, Ebony Shepard, William Cobb III, Debbie Ransom and Jennifer Tyson.

Two WNY Women Ghana Volunteers

TO AFRICA—A young Buffalo woman, Miss Evelyn Carmita Tisdale, has joined a young Lockport woman, Miss Suzann C. Heck, to form an inter-racial team going to Ghana May 10 to teach native women nutrition and hygiene. Both Miss Tisdale, who lives in Woodlawn Ave., and Miss Heck are graduate home economists. They are going to Africa for one year under the auspices of Volunteers for International Development, a private agency cooperating with the United Nations. It enlists the services of skilled persons to serve at sacrificial pay for one or two years in underdeveloped areas of the world as a personal contribution to world peace and understanding.



Miss Tisdale
... Ghana volunteer

FORM TEAM—It was announced in The Courier-Express March 20 that Miss Heck, who lives in John St., Lockport, would go to Ghana. At that time Miss Heck said she was looking for a graduate Negro home economist to accompany her. Their work together as a harmonious team would be an effective demonstration to the people of Ghana of American unprejudiced thinking.

Miss Heck asked Mrs. Cora P. Maloney, councilwoman for the Masten District, if she might know of a qualified young woman. Mrs. Maloney did know of a young home economist. In fact they lived on the same street. She was Miss Tisdale.

CHALLENGE—When Councilwoman Maloney called her, the young woman was immediately enthusiastic at the idea. But, as she is an only child, it took a few hours to convince her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Edward H. Tisdale of Woodlawn Ave., that she should accept. "I feel this experience is going to be a real challenge to me," said Miss Tisdale. "It not only will broaden my own outlook on life but I think I will be doing something constructive toward world peace and international friendship. It is real missionary work."

IN ABSENTIA—Miss Tisdale is a graduate in home economics from Howard University in Washington. She will receive a master of science degree from the State University College of Education at Buffalo in June. She will get her degree in absentia since she will be in Africa by then.

Miss Tisdale said she was inspired in her decision to go to Africa by the dean of home economics at Howard University, Dr. Fiemme P. Kittrell.

"She had been in India," explained Miss Tisdale, "setting up home economics departments and nutrition classes and she was so enthusiastic about her work that I thought someday I might like to do similar work. I had thought in terms of Europe but when the call for Ghana came, I knew that would be even more unusual and interesting."

SCHOOL TEACHER—At present Miss Tisdale is a kindergarten teacher at School 9, E. Utica and Masten. Although she and Miss Heck will go to Ghana together, they may not necessarily serve in the same area. The young women will work as honorary members of the Community Development Department of the Government of Ghana. They will receive assistance from U.N. consultants in the area.

Robert J. Magee, executive secretary of VID headquarters in Auburn, Mass., was in Buffalo recently to brief the volunteers on their new jobs. He said they would receive their \$857 round trip air fare to Ghana plus \$35 a month while there. Their food and housing will be free.

STATE'S FIRST—Mr. Magee said Miss Tisdale and Miss Heck are the first two persons from New York State to sign up with the volunteer organization. And they are the second team to be sent out by VID. The first, a husband and wife, are literacy experts working near Cairo, Egypt. A WNY committee, Volunteers for International Development, has been formed.

Miss Maloney, chairman, will support the two Ghana-bound home economists. While the national organization pays the air fare and sal-

aries of its volunteers, communities from which the volunteers come often help to raise a like amount of money so other dedicated workers can be sent abroad.

HONOR TEA—The WNY Committee will have a tea for Miss Tisdale and Miss Heck from 3 to 7 p.m. Wednesday at the Central YWCA in Franklin St. Any interested persons are invited to attend. Both young women will be present to talk with guests about the adventure they are undertaking.

On the tea committee are Judge Madge Taggart, Judge Ruth D. Vogel of Tonawanda, Judge Ann C. Mikoll, Mrs. Lloyd B. Allen, Mrs. J. Wesley Briscoe, Mrs. Anthony C. DiPola, Mrs. Vivian Dixon, Sister Patti Ellis, Mrs. Victor Einach, Mrs. William L. Evans and Mrs. Howard C. Gallop.

OTHER AIDES—Also assisting are Mrs. Mary Hackney, Mrs. Winton J. Hardiman, Mrs. Alice C. Hayes, Mrs. Vera H. Johnson, Mrs. George M. Zimmerman, Mrs. Marie D. Keefe, Judge Catherine R. Lautz, Mrs. Robert Lee, Mrs. Charles J. Leone, Mrs. Edward H. Letchworth, Mrs. Mary Louise Nice, Miss Ellen Del. Oughterson, Mrs. Joseph Sirociak and Mrs. Fred H. White.

A send-off luncheon is being planned for the two on their day of departure, Tuesday, May 10. The luncheon will be given at noon in the Cloud Room of Greater Buffalo International Airport.

Mayor Frank A. Sedita will attend to give the pair a key to the City of Buffalo for government officials in Accra, Ghana's capital. Ernest Grigg, chief of the Community Development Group of the United Nations in New York, will be here to address the luncheon group.

JUNE 1948

Bethel Pastor Appointed As AME Parley Ends

A 33-year-old African Methodist Episcopal minister who has served as a pastor for eight years and a seminary instructor for 2½ years last night was appointed pastor of Bethel AME Church, 551 Eagle St. He is the Rev. John W. P. Collier, Jr., former head of the department of rural churches at Payne Theological Seminary, Wilberforce, O.

The appointment was announced by Bishop B. Ward Nichols of New York, presiding bishop of the New York Conference of the AME Church, at the concluding session of the annual conference at Lincoln Memorial Methodist Church, 60 Howard St.

Bethel Church's new pastor was graduated from Plainfield (N. J.) High School when he was 17 years old and magna cum laude from Wilberforce University when he was 21. He was given an award for the highest scholastic average when he received his BD degree from Payne Theological Seminary.

Before joining the seminary faculty, he was pastor for five years of an AME church at Westfield, N. J., and for three years at Cranford, N. J. During the last two Summers he has done church extension work in the South under the Phelps-Stokes Fund and Home Missions' Council of the Federal Council of Churches of Christ.

The Rev. Mr. Collier succeeds the Rev. Dr. D. Ormonde Walker who was appointed bishop of the Fifth Episcopal District of the AME Church by the General Conference May 20th at Kansas City.

Four young men were ordained to the ministry by Bishop Nichols at the morning session of the conference. Clerical and lay delegates from 79 New York congregations attended the four-day meeting.

COLLIER Bethel Church Holds Acquaintance Meet For New Minister

Friends of Church Join In Get-together Honoring Pastor and Wife at Fete

A spirit of real hospitality was in evidence at the first acquaintance tea in honor of their recently appointed pastor and his wife, Rev. and Mrs. J. W. Collier and young son at the Bethel AME Church last Sunday from 4 to 7 p. m.

The tea was under the auspices of the several clubs of the Church which by close cooperation made it one of the nicest affairs of its kind for a long time. From a lace-covered table with a centerpiece of pink roses, delicious sandwiches of every shape and flavor, assorted cookies, home-made cake, nuts, candy and tea were generously served by the club members.

A musical program was rendered under the direction of Mrs. Robert Curry, organist of the Church. Besides piano selections by her three little Tinch sisters, Mrs. Curry rendered several selections accompanied by Sandra, the oldest of the three. Two piano numbers by Bishop were also given.

Many visitors were in attendance and there was an air of real festivity as neighbors chatted over their cups of tea. Clubs and their presidents were: The King's Daughters, Mrs. Alex Harrison, General Chair; Daughters of Allen, Mrs. L. C. Butler; Sons and Daughters of Bethel, Mrs. M. Watson; Trustee's Aid, Mrs. E. Robinson; Stewardess Board No. 1, Mrs. M. Bell; Board No. 2, Mrs. J. Williams; Board No. 3, Mrs. C. Brunson; Board No. 4, Mrs. G. Braden; Minister's Aid, Mrs. D. Laws; H. P. Anderson Club, Mrs. G. How-

Mrs. J. Byrd, Mrs. J. Hoban, Mrs. Ruth Jackson; Junior Ushers, Mrs. A. Rogers; Junior Choir, Mrs. H.

BUFFALO EVENING NEWS

Holmes Opens Pastorate Here



REV. J. W. P. COLLIER JR.

New Pastor Cites Menace of Secularism

Church people must demonstrate the power of religion in their daily lives to stop the growing trend toward secularism, the Rev. John W. P. Collier Jr. declared Sunday morning in his first sermon as pastor of Bethel AME Church.

Mr. Collier, formerly head of the Department of Rural Church at Payne Theological Seminary, Wilberforce, O., warned that secularism is "increasing on college campuses and even family groups are finding it possible to exist with less recognition of the presence of God in their lives."

"Attempts at world peace exclude the idea of God and basic spiritual concepts," he continued. "Even churches themselves on occasion are finding it expedient to resort to methods which are godless. Instead of practicing stewardship, some commercialize themselves by holding raffles."

Urging his congregation to "concern yourselves with everything that affects human personality," the preacher added:

"Problems of education, housing, health, recreation, government, labor, human relationships and war and peace are problems which demand the best the church can offer. Only as the church faces these problems realistically and effectively is its continued existence justified. As Christians we must choose wisely among alternatives in the light of normalment."

REV. & MRS
Collier
450N 1949



Members of Committee and honorees standing around table at Bethel AME Church last Sunday at the "get acquainted tea". L. to R. Mrs. G. Howard, Mrs. L. M. Harrison, Mrs. D. Laws, Mrs. L. C. Butler, Miss A. G. Anderson, Mrs. J. Williams, Mrs. C. Brunson, Rev. M. G. Crawford, Mrs. W. Dixon, Mrs. J. Byrd, Mrs. R. Jackson, Mrs. A. Rogers, Mrs. H. Spencer. Center, Honorees: Rev. and Mrs. J. W. Collier and son, John, III. Seated at table: Mrs. E. Robinson and Mrs. V. Means.



THE REVEREND JOHN W. P. COLLIER, JR.

The Executive Secretary-Treasurer of the A.M.E. Church's Department of Missions is the Reverend John W. P. Collier, Jr. Mr. Collier was elected to this position by the General Board in Columbus, Ohio in 1960 and re-elected by the General Conference in Dallas, Texas in 1972, and in Atlanta, Ga. in 1976.

Mr. Collier's educational background includes a Bachelor of Science degree in Social Administration (magna cum laude) from Wilberforce University; a Master of Divinity degree from Payne Theological Seminary; completed residence requirements for a Master of Arts degree in Missions and Rural Church at Drew Theological Seminary. He holds an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree from Wilberforce University.

His pastoral experience includes having served as minister of St. Thomas A.M.E. Church, Westfield, New Jersey; St. Mark's A.M.E. Church, Cranford, New Jersey; The Church of the Holy Trinity (College Church), Wilberforce, Ohio; Bethel A.M.E. Church, Buffalo, New York; Israel Memorial A.M.E. Church, Newark, New Jersey; and A.M.E. Union Church, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Mr. Collier has been a delegate to every A.M.E. General Conference since 1948. His many activities on Church boards and committees have included serving as vice-president of the New Jersey Council of Churches and a member of its General Board, and president of several ministerial groups. He is a member of the Payne Theological Seminary Board of Directors and of its Executive Committee. He attended the World Conference on Methodism in London in 1966. During a 3-year term as Secretary of the Division of Overseas Ministries of the National Council of Churches of Christ, he represented the Division of the World Assembly of the World Council of Christian Education in Lima, Peru in 1971. He attended the World Methodist Council's Consultation on Missions in Mexico City in 1973.

Community activities have included Chairman from 1960-1965 of the Newark Citizens' Committee for Equality in Education. This Committee's action resulted in the successful suit against the Newark Board of Education alleging discrimination in promotional examinations. Mr. Collier was Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Newark Branch N.A.A.C.P. from 1959-61 and is a Subscribing Life Member.

Active in the Civil Rights struggle, Mr. Collier was a member of a group of 18 clergymen who went into the deep South in June, 1961 on the first interfaith, interracial freedom rite. He was leader of the group arrested and jailed in Tallahassee, Florida, because of refusal to abide by unconstitutional, discriminatory laws. He was also a member of the Prayer Pilgrimage to Albany Georgia, in 1962 in which 75 Protestant, Roman Catholic and Jewish clergymen and laymen were arrested and jailed as unlawfully assembled disorderly persons.

Since election to his present office, Mr. Collier has visited twenty-five of the twenty-nine countries outside of continental United States where African Methodism supports missionary activity.

Mr. Collier holds memberships in Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, N.A.A.C.P., S.C.L.C., Urban League, Masons and National Committee of Black Churchmen. He is married to the former Mrs. Mary Savage of Jefferson City, Mo.

Becomes Bishop



DR. D. ORMONDE WALKER, pastor of Bethel A.M.E. Church, 551 Eagle St., was elected a bishop of the African Methodist Episcopal Church at the 33d quadrennial conference of the church Saturday in Kansas City. He and five other bishops were consecrated Sunday. Dr. Walker formerly served on the Buffalo War Council and the Housing Authority Advisory Committee. He was formerly president of Wilberforce (O.) College.

Erstwhile Susan a Vine Street School

Yes, the old building is not just where it was in the '60's—old Public School No. 1 for colored boys and girls, a well-built two-story brick structure, substantial and as good as any public school in Buffalo at that time. It was on the north side of Vine St. S. just west of Elm Street, and we add that there were no houses of ill-repute in that vicinity at that time or for nearly a score of years later.

My first recollection of old building was when D. W. Blanchard was principal and Mary A. Nathan was the assistant. Both were white, and at that time John Fosdick was superintendent of schools, with Dr. Charles D. Knowlton writing teacher and Everett L. Baker teacher at singing.

Across the street from the school, at that time, was the old African M. E. Church, with Rev. Francis J. Peck as pastor and Joseph Peters, John Fairbush, William Carter, Lew Smith, Thomas Harman and Samuel Murfay, trustees.

The Michigan Street Baptist Church was organized at that time, and the old edifice still stands and does duty for the colored Baptists, in Michigan south of Broadway. The trustees there were James Thomas C. Johnson, Robert and Charlie Smith.

At the time Josephus N. Lee

NEW YEARS EVE SERVICE

11:00 P.M.

PROCESSIONAL -- "Lead Kindly Light" Devotional Pg. 250

FLAG BEARERS

CANDLE BEARER

HYMN "My Days Are Gliding By" Hymnal Pg. 499

PRAYER Unison Confessional (Congregation with bowed heads will read the following prayer)

Dear Lord, in the last moments of this year we come confessing our sins. We have left undone things that we should have done and we have done things that we should not have done; and we stand before thee as guilty sons and daughters. O merciful God, forgive us as thou hast forgiven the generations that preceded us. Hear our prayer we ask in Jesus' name, Amen.

CHOIR #1

PRAYER SUBMISSION (Congregation with bowed heads will read the following prayer)

Holy Father, give us the will to submit ourselves wholly to thy divine guidance. Our wills when exercised without thee lead us astray. Make us wholly thine tonight we beseech thee O Lord in Jesus' name. Amen.

SOLO

PRAYER DEDICATION (Congregation with bowed heads will read the following prayer)

O God in whom our fathers and mothers trusted when the way
lead we ask thy help ^{son Jesus Christ} in His name and for His
Amen.

CHOIR #2

"Are Ye Able"

MESSAGE Short message by the minister Mr. Walker

HYMN OF INVITATION "Blessed Assurance" Dev. Pg. 234

OFFERING

BENEDICTION

NEW YEARS GREETINGS --- Let each worshipper shake hands with the worshipper next to him. Those who desire are invited to the Social Rooms of the church to have a warm cup of cocoa and donuts.

The following ladies will please serve: Ruth Jackson, Virginia Means, George Braden, Louella Davis, Dolly Sullivan, Carrie Washington, Genevieve Johnson, Pauline Lewis, Glenda Payton, Ruth Glass, Janie Tucker, Almata Johnson, Hazel Palmer, Rosie Ruth Glass, Janie Tucker, Almata Johnson, Hazel Palmer, Rosie Means, Beatrice Bass, Ruby Payton, Clydean Bass and Carnella Palmer.

A Conversation With:



The Rev. Dr. G. Grant Crumpley

The Rev. Dr. G. Grant Crumpley is a candidate for bishop in the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church. He is pastor of Bethel AME Church, 1525 Michigan Ave., which is the first black church founded here. That first congregation, which was organized on April 28, 1831, a year before Buffalo became an incorporated village, was started with a "handful of members." The membership is now about 2,000.

C-E—How long have you been the pastor of Bethel AME Church?

Dr. Crumpley—I have been pastor of Bethel since 1965. Prior to that time, I was pastor of three other churches during my 28 years as a minister. Immediately before being assigned here, I pastored the Macedonia AME Church in Flushing for 17 years.

C-E—How are bishops elected, and when will the election be held?

Dr. Crumpley—Bishops are elected in the AME Church by the electorate, composed of about 1,500 delegates from the annual conference. Those delegates consist of 20 bishops; all the general officers; AME college presidents and college deans and active AME chaplains in the U.S. Armed Forces. The election will be held in June of 1976 in Atlanta, Ga.

C-E—When did you become a candidate for bishop and how often are elections held?

Dr. Crumpley—I announced my candidacy in 1968. Since that time, I have campaigned in seven South African nations, around the Gulf of Mexico and the West Indies. Before the 96th AME Annual Conference next year, I expect to visit all 50 states of this nation. The elections are held every four years.

C-E—How many vacancies will be filled at the time of the election, and are there any other local candidates?

Dr. Crumpley—There will be seven slots to

be filled. Presently there are about 25 candidates for the positions. None of the candidates is from this area. However, there are four other candidates from New York State. This will be the first time for all of the other four candidates from New York State to compete for the position of bishop.

C-E—Are bishops elected for life terms?

Dr. Crumpley—No. However, up until 1972, when the bylaws of the AME Church were changed to require bishops to retire at the age of 75, bishops had been elected for life terms.

C-E—On the celebration of your congregation's 144th anniversary on Sunday, what do the special programs include?

Dr. Crumpley—The 10:30 a.m. worship service will feature Dr. W. D. Johnson of Atlanta, Ga. He is editor-in-chief of the AME Review, the official quarterly publication of the AME church.

City Court Judge Samuel L. Green will speak at 4 p.m. in the church during the afternoon program. At this program, about 20 parishioners of the church will be honored for their contributions to the church for more than 50 years each.

An evening program, beginning at 7:30 p.m. in the church, will feature the church's music department presentation of a cantata. Musical selections from songs from the present time, and dating back before the turn of the century, will be sung.

4-22-75 Courier & Press

F.D./



CHECKS PRESENTED TO NAACP AT BETHEL AME CHURCH: Pictured left to right, Mrs. Mamie Johnson presents a check for a Golden Heritage Membership in memory of her husband, the late Rev. Horace G. (Billy) Johnson, Derrick Byrd, for a Life Membership in memory of his father the late Rev. D. M. Byrd, founder and pastor of Peoples Community Church - UCC; J. Carl Bland, co-chairman of Life Membership Committee - NAACP; Dorsey Glover, president of Jeff-Way store; and Rev. Dr. Eugene E. McAshan, pastor of Bethel AME Church, for a Golden Heritage Membership for the church. A plaque will be presented to them at the annual NAACP Dinner, June 12th.

Service Of Praise And Thanksgiving



Columbus, Ohio — Carolyn Thomas, Frances Davenport and Garnett Wallace journeyed to Columbus, Ohio to attend the Service of Thanksgiving and Praise for the Episcopal Ministry of Bishop Richard Allen Hildebrand on Saturday, June 20. Bishop Vernon R. Byrd presided and Bishop Decatur Ward Nichols delivered the sermon. He paraphrased St. John, Chapter 1, verse 6. "There was a man sent from God whose name was Richard Allen Hildebrand." He concluded his remarks by saying Bishop Hildebrand was not retiring, but as the wheels on a car, he was being re-

tired. Biss Emp and Mrs. Chappelle, Bishop and Mrs. Robert Thomas were also in attendance. Miss Christine London, Bishop Hildebrand's secretary for close to 20 years sang, "Great Is Thy Faithfulness." The Bell Choir and a Mass Choir from representative AME Churches sang.

The service was followed by a luncheon. Highlights then were greetings from Dr. John Henderson, President of Wilberforce University; Dr. Charles L. Harvey, President of Payne Theological Seminary and a skit entitled "Recapturing The Vision" featuring Vanessa Cummings as Mother Agnes Hildebrand; Jason Lowe as Bishop Hildebrand the child; and Leslie Gaines, Jr. Bishop as a young adult. Music was rendered by "The Three D" Ensemble. Rev. William Galloway, Presiding Elder was the Master of Ceremonies and the Rev. S. E. Lancaster, General Chairperson.

A reception was held at the Episcopal Residence for out-of-town guests on Friday. All other activities took place at the Hyatt Regency Hotel.

Highlights From Bethel-Buffalo

By GARNETT HICKS WALLACE
Buffalo, N. Y. — An Ad-Hoc

Committee formed to strengthen church family life, sponsored its first affair Friday, June 20. The occasion, a fun, family, and fellowship picnic. It was built around what was called "A Taste of Bethel." Each person was asked to bring a dish. Ice breaker games were played. Focus was also on the men of the church. Because Father's Day was observed the previous Sunday, Mary Crosby Chappelle was asked to do a salute to men. This was followed by the presentation of a key-chain to each man present in the shape of a number 1 to say that they are just that.

This committee is not structured and is composed to the seasoned, the young adult and the "young" young adult. It is looking for ways to bring religious and Christian training into the lives of those children who hear not the Word of God, thus do not know the Golden Rule, that thou should not covet, etc. . . .

It is expected that the committee will steer, and enlist the aid of those who can bring a project to fruition. Thanks go to Vera Battle and Clydean Amaker for decorations, the Trueheart brothers for the music, Thelma Hardiman for prizes and Bethel members for delicious salads, desserts and main dishes.

The Senior Choir presented the

"New Beginnings" in concert on Saturday, June 27th. The "New Beginnings" is an exciting group who are versatile. They are able to sing an anthem with all fervor and then sing gospel music with the same enthusiasm and then some. Flowers and a plaque were given to Ruthetta Smikle, Directress.

A Mother and Daughter team, Willie Edna and Shari Willis, are in charge of the newly created 8:00 a.m. service. It is interesting to note that there are those who come at 8:00 a.m. and stay for Sunday School and also attend the 10:00 a.m. worship.

Scholarships were presented to Charlene Anderson. Certificates were also represented to those persons who had a 90 average or better the past school year. They were Marianna Crippen 94, Adriann Crippen 93, Keith Young 95, E. Paul Smith, Jr. 92, Germaine Younger 95, Courtney Barton 95, Tia Johnson 90, Teresa Edwards 93, Shandra Gary 95, Jennifer Dublin 96, Carla McKinnon 95, and Bertrice Anderson 95.

Clay Wilson and the Male Chorus hosted a Father and Son Luncheon. The proceeds went to the Scholarship Committee.



Check Presentation for NAACP Life Membership

This photo shows J. Carl Bland, of the NAACP, receiving checks for Life Memberships from the Rev. Dr. Harry J. White, Jr., Pastor of Bethel A.M.E. Church, and also the members.

Shown from left are: J. Carl Bland; Rev. Dr. Harry J. White, Pastor; Vernon P. Taylor, Trustee and President of the Male Usher Board; Raymond Walton,

Trustee and Vice President of the Male Usher Board, as he presents a check from the Bethel Male Usher Board; and Sarah Fogan, Trustee.

A plaque will be presented to each one at the NAACP Annual Dinner, Sunday, June 10th. The presentations and dinner will take place at the Buffalo Convention Center.

Bethel Begins Renovation Program

Buffalo, N.Y. — Bethel's renovation program moves ahead as the house of worship wears its new coat of paint, and repaired stained glass windows. Bethel was one of fifteen churches whose windows were broken by stone throwing vandals this summer. Spurred on by these activities, it was voted to replace steps and tailings at the Ferry Street entrance, replace carpeting and renovate the washrooms.

Four chairpersons are heading up the renovation program . . . Nelson Townsend, E. Paul Smith, Diane Townsend, and Frances Davenport.



RONALD J. COLLERAN/Buffalo News

Members Joya Shepard, left, Fred Bell Jr. and Eugene Thomas hang a banner announcing their church's 160th anniversary.

Bethel A.M.E. celebrates its 160th year

By DAVE CONDREN
News Religion Reporter

Members of Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church, Buffalo's oldest black church, will begin a yearlong celebration next weekend of its 160th anniversary.

A Founders Day Banquet will kick off the celebration at 7 p.m. Friday in the Buffalo Hilton Hotel.

The speaker will be Bishop Frank C. Cummings of Philadelphia, who will talk about the denomination's history of independence since it was organized in 1787 to protest racial discrimination practiced in St. George's Methodist Church in Philadelphia. The head of the First District of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, Bishop Cummings is known internationally for his astute business skill in guiding the construction and financing of the district's \$10 million office and convention center, which were completed in Philadelphia in 1989.

The 1,600-member Bethel church traces its roots to the Colored Methodist Society, Buffalo's first black religious organization, founded April 28, 1831. The anniversary celebration is being held in conjunction with National Black History Month.

In Buffalo religious history, Bethel A.M.E. takes its place as the city's third-oldest religious community behind First Presbyterian Church, founded in 1812, and St. Louis Catholic Church, founded in 1829.

Dr. Monroe Fordham, a Buffalo State College professor and authority on local black history, has determined that the Colored Methodist Society spawned the Vine Street Methodist Church in 1833. That congregation later became Vine Street African Methodist Episcopal Church and eventually Bethel A.M.E. Church.

Carolyn B. Thomas, who is active in the local church and a member of the Episcopal Committee of the national A.M.E. Church,

said the congregation has worshiped in buildings on Carroll Street, Vine Alley and Eagle Street. In 1953 it moved to its present location at 1525 Michigan Ave., a former Presbyterian Church.

"It is considered the Mother Church of African Methodism in Western New York," Mrs. Thomas said. "This church has been a church for 160 years. Even during the Depression, the doors never closed."

In addition to the talk by Bishop Cummings, the Founders Day program will include a review of the church's history by Fordham, presentation of awards by the Rev. Harry J. White Jr., the pastor, and Mary Randolph, banquet co-chairwoman, and musical numbers by the A.M.E. District Choir and the Bethel African Heritage Society.

Mr. White is the son of former pastor Harry J. White Sr., who served Bethel from 1952 to 1965.

Fruit Of The Spirit Awards Luncheon

Buffalo, N.Y. — Saturday, November 9, the Bethel AME Fellowship Hall was the setting for the First Annual "Fruit of the Spirit" Awards Luncheon. This activity initiated by the pastor, the Rev. Harry J. White, Jr., serves to focus not only the activity of the awardee, but the personality of that individual synonymous with those listed in the Bible.

Awardees: Henry Nance — the fruit of patience. Mr. Nance, a retired supervisor of Bethlehem Steel Corporation, has had as a vocation carpentry. He has used this skill to renovate, repair and enlarge various

areas around Bethel. He has painted what is now to be our history room, built a handicapped lavatory, a utility room to store or make ready the monthly communion, renovated our stage, to name a few. He is the President of the Male Chorus, runs the tape duplication program, and still is available to members in the church family to remedy their ills.

Cleo Ivey for faithfulness — has given over four thousand hours of volunteer time in his service as the pick-up driver with the van for Sunday services. He is the trustee representative to take care of the repair at Bethel and see that the facility is maintained. He is a member of the Male Usher Board, the President of the Men's Club, a Trustee and a former Jr. Steward.

Ruthetta Scott-Smikle — the fruit of joy. She serves as the Minister of music, Sunday School Superintendent, Chairperson of the "Dorcas" Missionary unit, Chairperson for Special Projects of the N.Y. Confer-

ence Branch and a member of the 1st District Music Committee. Despite dealing with illnesses in her family and being responsible for the entire music department for the Buffalo Board of Education, she always wears a smile and thinks and acts in a positive fashion.

A 'surprise' awardee — **Frances McAllister Davenport**, Chairperson of the Renovation Committee — the fruit of self-control. Mrs. Davenport has accepted the very con-

fining responsibility of being there when pledges are paid contacting and supervising contractors to make certain that any agreements are upheld and when possible, doing some finishing touches herself. All rooms have been renovated and refurbished. The Ferry Street has been renovated and beautified.

The Male Chorus furnished the music under the direction of Mrs. Connie Smith. Mrs. Freddie Fordham presided.



Buffalo NAACP Membership Rally Awardees

The Membership Rally to finalize the local branch Membership Drive, was held Wed., Apr. 22, at Mt. Ararat Baptist Church. Persons pictured above, along with others, and those who were absent, received awards for their solicitation of the NAACP memberships in the drive, which ran through March.

Bethel AME Church won two categories: for soliciting the most memberships and collecting the most money in the drive for a Church or Organization.

Individual top prize winners were: President Daniel R. Acker, for soliciting the most memberships; and Roy Gore, for raising the

most amount of money.

In the photo kneeling, is Rev. W. A. Jones, Pastor of Mt. Ararat Baptist Church. First row from left, shows: Madeline Easley, Membership Chairperson; Garnett Wallace; Ruby Butler; Rev. Eugene MacAshan, speaker; Daniel R. Acker; Artha Williams and Edith Brown.

Pictured in the back row from left are: Raymond T. Walton; Michelle Collins; Rufus Frasier; Rev. Will Brown, Drive Chairman; Raphael DuBard; Roy Gore; Lucille Perrin; and J. Carl Bland.

Celebration set at Bethel AME

A historian for the national African Methodist Episcopal Church, one of the oldest African-American congregations in America, will be the keynote speaker at 7 p.m. April 19 at Bethel AME's banquet marking the church's 165th anniversary.

Dr. Dennis Dickerson, who compiles and records the denomination's history at the AME national office in Massachusetts, will speak in the church's fellowship hall at East Ferry Street and Michigan Avenue.

The local congregation was started in 1831. Its service to the community will be recognized at 2 p.m. April 16 in the Common Council chambers of City Hall with a presentation and selections from the church's choir.

To Be Honored



MRS. MARY CHAPPELLE

Sunday, July 13th, at 6 p.m., Bethel AME Church, E. Ferry and Michigan Ave., will honor Mrs. Mary Chappelle, in a Retirement Banquet at the Statler Hilton Hotel, in recognition of her retirement from the educational system of Buffalo. She plans to give full time to religious and civic activities.

Mrs. Chappelle was born in Milton, Florida, to the late Tilman and Maria Crosby. She came with her family at an early age to Ohio, where she graduated with honors — the only black in a class of 200, from Coshocton High School, in 1926.

Upon completion of her public school education, she enrolled at Clark College in Atlanta, Ga., where she majored in Social Science and Education. Her sojourn at Clark saw Mary active in the college Glee Club, dramatics, *in music*

MRS. CHAPPELLE See Pg. 8

Mrs. Chappelle

[From Page 1]

religious groups on campus, a charter member of Pi Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, and distinguished herself by becoming the first female Editor-in-Chief of the school paper, "The Mentor". In 1930, she graduated from Clark, Magna Cum Laude and a B.A. degree.

A strong influence of a dedicated Christian home has left its impact on Mary Chappelle's life. At a very early age, she established a pattern of service to the community and her fellowman, a pattern which was to characterize her entire life. Church groups have been the recipients of Mary's dynamic input.

She has taught, lectured, sung, dramatized, written and has preached her way into the lives of those she met. For her untiring efforts to make the community about her a better one for all, she has the honor of receiving numerous plaques and citations demonstrating the public's appreciation of her "Mary Chappelle Philosophy of life."

Her affiliations are legend.

As a member of the Lit-Mus Club of Buffalo, she has served the National Association of Colored Women's Clubs for over thirty years, receiving a Life Membership and a 30-year award. She has served the Buffalo Region of the Empire State Federation of Negro Women's Clubs as Regional Resident, Parliamentarian, and Executive Chairman. In addition, she holds membership in the following organizations:

Bethel AME Church, New York State Teachers' Assoc., Women's Division YMCA, Buffalo and Vicinity YMCA, League of Women Voters, National Democratic Party, National Democratic Party, National Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Ladies Aux., VFW, Ladies Aux. of NAACP, Curator Buffalo African Cultural Center, Buffalo Club - National Assoc. of Negro Business and Professional Clubs, New York State Adult Education Council, Lena Johnson Chapter Eastern Stars, Buffalo Urban League Guild, Local PTA, Riley Street Block Club, and the Council for Exceptional Children.

Mrs. Chappelle has served as a panelist for public interest groups and a lecturer on radio and television and at the State University College of Buffalo. She has served as a solicitor for the following fund raising drives: Annual Community Membership Drive, Cancer Fund, Poppy Sales of VFW, March of Dimes and YMCA and YWCA drives.

Since 1938, she has taught in the schools of Buffalo and in 1946, was appointed Permanent Teacher in Exceptional Education. Other vocational endeavors have been: Social Welfare visitor, Surveyor for Municipal Housing, private tutor, a teacher at Browning Home in Camden, S. C., and an instructor in Federal

programs: Evening Adult School Programs; Art classes and Remedial Reading.

Some of her special activities are: director of weddings, banquets, receptions, etc., oratorical contests, diversified public programs, religious and folk social recreation, fashion shows and charm classes and workshops.

Mrs. Chappelle serves as chairman and counselor of various community committees, church related groups, youth social clubs, adult social clubs, moderates panels, forums, symposiums, seminars, youth groups, and women's activities.

In appreciation of dedicated work, Mrs. Chappelle has received the following citations and awards:

Bethel AME Church — over 30 years of service and membership; First Baptist Church — Among 10 honored leaders of the year; Delaine-Waring — Among 10 leading women of the year; Sojourner Truth A Ward — National Assoc. of Business and Professional Women; Erie County Historical Club — Portrayal of Harriet tubman in Drama; National Assoc. of Colored Women's Clubs — Life membership; Grand Temple IBPOE of World — Meritorious Mention, Local Financial Secretary; Clifford Bell for Councilman Club — Diplomacy; Sara J. Poole, Household of Ruth — Woman of the Year;

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J. Carl Bland Speaks To State Judicial Panel



A special state Judicial Commission on Minorities was formed to study the treatment of minorities in the state's court system. These series of hearings are being held across the state.

Common Council President, George K. Arthur branded the local court system as racist. Blacks and Hispanics make up 35% of the Buffalo population, but few have court-related jobs. Donald Lee, a key aide to George Arthur, who could not be present, speaking in Arthur's behalf said that out of 12 Buffalo City Court judges, only 3 are black and one is Hispanic. And that in Western New York only 1 out of 9 appellate judges is black. There are no black state trial court judges; there are only 6 minority lawyers on the Erie County district attorney's 85 lawyer staff and only one of the 13 City Court stenographers is black and none are Hispanic. Lee said. Every trial shown on television is a black trial or involves minorities.

J. Carl Bland, Chairman of the Buffalo NAACP Life Membership Committee, and a member of Bethel A.M.E. Church for 46 years, spoke on the issue. He stated that he noticed only one black juror perhaps will be serving on the jury of a court case, but seldom if it is a criminal case involving a black defendant. Jobs are sometimes not widely advertised and are most often filled under the ruse of "passing" or "falling" some test that has no relevance to the job to be performed, but has been an excuse for hiring an almost all white staff.

Mr. Bland stated that the unbelievable ousting of Buffalo's highly respected first and only black woman Judge, Barbara M. Sims for no reason was horrifying. "She turned to the court, but I doubt that there is an unbiased, fair unprejudiced court to which she can turn where a white judge will do justice." Mr. Bland said "I have seen the harassment of Judge Bruce Wright in New York City who has not been reappointed to the Criminal Court. Other black women such as Police Captain, Marian Bass harassed in their jobs without any fair court for them to turn to."

"That New York State should have to resort to a special prosecutor only points out the deteriorating racial climate which I believe is fostered by the racist court system, wherein whites have come to believe that we, as African Americans, have no rights which they must respect," stated Mr. Bland. "Two cases come to mind where two of the so called 'Ladies of the Evening,' were picked up and one policeman testified that the other policeman took one of the ladies in to the back of the station where no male policeman was to carry any female without the presence of a female police officer, where the lady testified that she was forced to have sex with the officer. The court ruled insufficient evidence. The other case a white male robs a bank and is allowed to repay for said bank robbery. A white female secretary embezzled money

NAACP Observes 73rd Anniversary

Bethel Receives Golden Heritage



The annual dinner of the Buffalo Chapter of the NAACP was held on Sunday June 12, 1988 at 6:30 p.m. at the Buffalo Convention Center and was very well attended indeed.

Jr. Life Memberships were awarded to E. Paul, Jr. and Elizabeth. Elizabeth is a daughter of Bethel and Paul, Jr. is an AColyte. Their parents are Mr. and Mrs. E. Paul Smith, Sr. Mr. Smith is a Trustee and a Moritician by profession. Connie is a teacher in the Buffalo school system.

Bethel A.M.E. Church also received its GOLDEN HERITAGE Award. Rev. Eugene E. McAshan was on hand to receive it.

Other awards given were: to Cozette Lyons who received the Youth Award; Paul Russi, and Robert L. Palmer, who received the Human Relations Award; the Buffalo Chapter Links, Inc. and the Women For Human Rights & Dignity received the Community Service Award; Lydi T. Wright, MD, and Frank G. Evans, MD, received the Medgars Ever Award; The Rev. Paul Thompson received the Life Membership Presentations and made the appeal.

The speaker for the evening was Dr. William Pickard, Chairman of Regal Plastics of Detroit, Michigan. He stated that blacks are 7th place in income and that our purchasing power in 1987 was over \$200,000,000,000. That we have power but do not use it. We have over 5000 elected black officials in the country. Blacks make up 12% of the population. But in 1986, shoes that cost \$125 a pair were bought by us — 60% of shoes bought were bought by blacks. WE are the profit margin for most Corporations.

He also stated that we as a people are hung up on CAN'T DO and SHOULD DO. WE need to build our self worth. We cannot be independent with dependent thinking. WE must not keep asking people to do for us; they'll do it TO us. We do not produce much of anything, but buy everything. We must ban together to recycle our monies in our neighborhoods.

He left an impact on all as he stated: "We have come from the cottonfield to the football field; from the outhouse to the white house; as you run this race, you may stumble, you may fall, but don't stop — don't give up."

We all stood and sang a song full of the faith that the dark has taught us; a song full of the hope that the present has brought us — facing the rising sun of our new day begun. We will march on till victory is won.

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Clay Wilson Makes Union Counselor

Mr. Clay Wilson has earned the title of Union Counselor of Local 508 UAW. The 42nd Annual Graduation and Banquet was held at the Hearthstone Manor on Friday, June 3, 1988. This event is sponsored by the Buffalo AFL-CIO Council and the United Way of Buffalo and Erie County. Mr. Wilson is a Trustee, President of the Pastor's Aid Club, a member of the Male Usher Board, Male Chorus, and drives the Van for the senior citizens here at Bethel. The young people are always happy to see him, for he keeps the candy vending machine full of snacks.

A basic principle of the Buffalo AFL-CIO Community Services Program is that the union member is first and foremost a citizen of Western New York who cooperates with fellow citizens in making the community a good place in which to live, to work and to raise a family.

This person is one of the first of its kind in the nation and for the past 42 years has been training rank-and-file members to serve as information and referral specialists to their brothers and sisters. Union Counseling has been an effective social outreach program for organized labor.

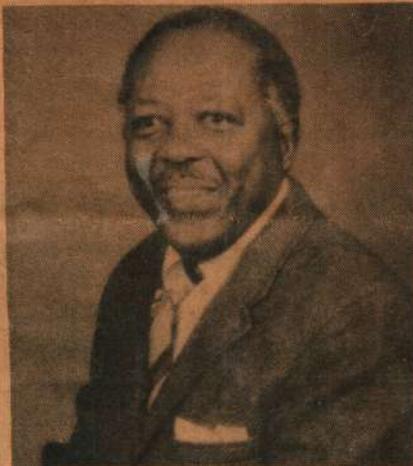
During these sessions, the program participants meet with representatives from the field of health, public assistance, recreation, child and family welfare and many other local agencies. As a result of the presentations and classroom discussion, these Union Counselors learn the types of service available to those in need. They also become knowledgeable of methods used to refer individuals to the proper agency.

Assisting in the health and welfare problems of their fellow-workers by providing information and referrals, makes the Union Counselors' duties one of the most important functions of the local union.



Mr. Clay Wilson

Vernon Taylor Recuperating From Savage Attack



Mr. Vernon P. Taylor

Vernon Taylor, a long time member of Bethel, was mugged and stabbed while traveling with his wife Cora, from Chicago to Buffalo after the death of his nephew. It was in Ann Arbor, Michigan that he had car trouble and while waiting for the tow truck on the Ford Freeway in rush hour traffic, he was stabbed and robbed. The lone attacker then warned Mrs. Taylor that if she did not give him the money, he would stab her. She complied.

After surgery, it is reported that Mr. Taylor is recuperating in Ford Hospital, Detroit, Mich. and is expected to fly home soon.

Mr. Taylor is a Trustee, member of the Men's Club, President of the Men's Usher Bd. and a member of the Lay Organization.

There are still some "Good Samaritans" on the Jericho Road. They stayed with Cora, gave a description of the assailant and took her to an "Inn." Our prayers are with them. God is still in the blessing business. Mrs. Taylor stated that she had received phone calls from it seems to be "all of Buffalo." God and good friends have kept her going.

Live From Alumni Arena

Now this is more like it: an athletic director who isn't a jock. He's Nelson E. Townsend from the State University of Buffalo. True, his career has taken him to many a gymnasium — as vice principal, coach and athletic director. His life, on the other hand, has been one long haul.

Are you surprised at where you are at this point in your life?

Yes. With such humble beginnings, it was very difficult to picture yourself anywhere. I was the first person from my family to go to college. One summer I had the opportunity to work in a chicken processing plant, and I had a girlfriend who was really talking about getting married. And I just realized that summer that, my God, I can't spend my life doing this.

Were you a good student?

I was never the most popular kid. I was almost class valedictorian in high school. I played baseball, basketball, football. I was the guy who the coach said to get together with to study. My high school was 28 miles from where I lived. All the schools closer were white.

You were discriminated against.

Oh, my God. It's not something that you felt some time ago. You feel it every day. It's not my master's degree that distinguishes me from the majority, it's the color of my skin. I still walk into a grocery store and people follow me around, thinking I'm going to steal something.

The odds were against you. How did you become so successful?

I'm not so sure that I have. I've gotten to this position as a result of good fortune and a lot of dogged determination. I still have not reached where I want to go.

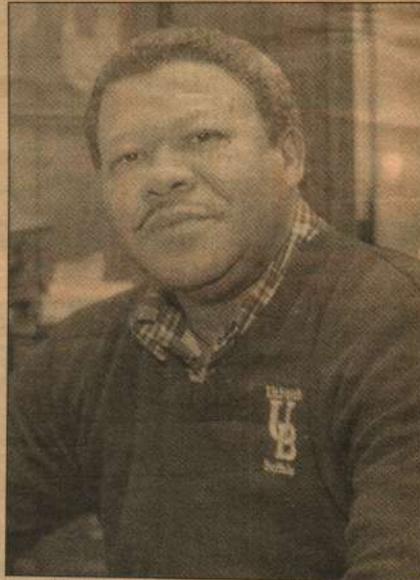
Where is that?

What I would really like to do one day, and I'm not making the type of progress toward it, I would like to be president — I'm going to pause a minute while you ponder the United States — of a private, historically black university.

Are you a demanding person?

No, I'm probably a total pussycat when I get home. My kids know how to wrap me around their fingers.

You come home from work; you turn on the TV. Is the channel ESPN?



ROBERT E. STODDARD/BUFFALO NEWS

TOWNSEND: "It's not my master's degree that distinguishes me from the majority, it's the color of my skin."

My family would kill. When I come home in the evening, that's probably the most compromising that I do. I love college basketball, and I have the good fortune to have a wife who loves college football and college basketball. But I wouldn't care if UB was playing Notre Dame, they would never get in front of the 8 o'clock hour on Thursday evening, "The Cosby Show."

Are you an emotional type of guy?

Yes, I am. I will cry in a minute. And I do it unashamedly. I will shout to the rafters when I'm happy, and I'll do high-fives and all that other stuff.

How does it feel to be a member of the Buffalo Club?

I'm sorry, I really haven't felt anything. I think I know what it is I'm joining, and it doesn't have a significance for me that it would have for other people. I haven't been to the club as a member yet. My evenings are very well spent. I went to 150 athletic events last year.

Are you a sporto?

No. The job makes me one, but I'm not. I still find myself sitting in the gym doing book work, research.

— JANE KWIATKOWSKI

Thank You Rev. McAshan



Toinette Randolph

From The Youth
Of Bethel Church
By TOINETTE M. RANDOLPH
Sophomore at Hampton University
Hampton, Virginia

Now is the time for the youth of Bethel Church to thank our pastor, Rev. Eugene E. McAshan, for his sincere kindness. Not many people realize the true talents that he possesses, and the support that he has shown the youth. I am sure that by the time you finish reading this article, that you will agree with me. Rev. McAshan is a truly caring sincere and talented man who Bethel Church is lucky to call "one of their own."

Rev. McAshan is the type of minister that will assess a situation and act in a manner which he finds necessary. There was a time when he looked at the youth of the church and found that the direction they were headed in was not best suited for the leaders of tomorrow. Rev. McAshan listened to the needs of the youth and implemented a plan. He decided that what was needed was a mini-seminar which would take place at an opportune time for all.

The mini-seminar consisted of a series of lessons. The first lesson was an introductory warm-up in which he tried to make the youth feel more comfortable with the controversial subject matter he chose to lecture on. This was human sexuality. I know many are thinking that this is a subject which is taught in school. However, I would like to point out that Rev. McAshan ingeniously combined human sexuality with religion to make a biological Sunday school lesson.

In the second lesson, Rev. McAshan stuck to topics which would allow the youth to have discussions and still feel comfortable. He discussed subjects on marriage and divorce, dating, and heavy petting. The third lesson was comprised of more in depth subjects. Some of these were, pre-marital sex, abortion, and suicide. Rev. McAshan clearly pointed out sections of the Bible which teach us how to govern our lives in reference to these topics. This gave the youth some guide which they could follow even when they are not sitting in a church congregation. It helped to teach the youth that as in school, when you are confused about the spelling of a word, you refer to the dictionary — accordingly, you can refer to the Bible about an uncertainty in life. I feel that this is a very important lesson which we as youth need to learn.

Rev. McAshan's mini-seminar did more than just teach, it helped to unify the church youth. When everyone realized that they had the same questions running unanswered through their minds, they felt a closeness. Also, Rev. McAshan's open-mindedness allowed the youth to relax enough to get to know each other. A demeanor such as that is not learned, it is a given talent. Nevertheless, he did not deviate from the purpose of compromising openness for education.

It is obvious that Rev. McAshan is multi-talented. He is a teacher, a leader, a role-model, a minister, and most important, a friend. I feel that his genuine effects should finally be acknowledged. THANK YOU REV. McASHAN, for being there when we, the youth, needed you the most!

First Lady Speaker For Pew Rally

A Pew Rally was held sponsored by the Missionary Society of Bethel on Sunday evening June 5 at 6:30 p.m. Sis. Bessie Robinson chaired the occasion. The Pew Rally was a concerted effort of all four units of the Missionary Society. The affair was well attended and though the planning of this particular Pew Rally was almost spontaneous in that it had been planned only five days prior, the event was also financially successful.

The Ladies Usher Board No. 1 was on hand to render service and music was given by the Senior Choir and Gospel Singers. Solos were given by Sis. Yvonne Patterson, a member of Calvary C.M.E. Church here in the city as only she can sing them.

The highlight of the evening came through the message that was brought to



Jewel McAshan

us by our "First Lady", and President of the Society, Sis. Jewel McAshan. Her message was truly inspirational. The subject: "Is There A Missionary In The House?" The scriptural reference was taken from St. Luke 10:2 — "Therefore He said unto them, the harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few; pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers into his harvest." She stated that the word Missions (Plural) is a noun. The name of a person, place, or thing, but that the word Mission (Singular) becomes a verb, and verb is a helping word. A Missionary then becomes a helper, a doer, because we are admonished by Christ to become doers of the word and not hearers only. We are to give, take, share, go, do, make, love, work, bring, support, help, . . . and the list goes on and on, but we are to be DOERS. She spoke of the NEED for leaders, as well as good followers. And the third and final point of the message dealt with the REWARD. The gleam in the eyes and great smile of the elderly person when you bring them a hot meal that they are unable to prepare, or from just the time spent in a conversation when they are lonely, or being of a child when the very little things that we too often take for granted, makes him or her so very happy. Just knowing that you have tried to do what Christ has instructed you to do and that you have succeeded is rewarding, but the greatest reward is promised to each of us when we shall have finished our work here on this plain. We shall move on up a little higher, and the greatest reward will be given by the Father himself.

And so, although this event was well attended and financially successful, it was inspirational also, and the latter is the most important.



Bethel Places 1st In NAACP Membership Drive

Bethel A.M.E. Church, who will be celebrating its 150th Anniversary, with a Banquet at the Statler Hotel, on Sat., June 6th, has won the NAACP Membership Drive among participating Churches.

The church, pastored by the Rev. Eugene Earl Cornelius McAshan, won first place in two categories: bringing in the most members out of its membership, and for the greatest amount of money out of \$5.00 - \$500.00 membership range.

Accepting the awards for Bethel were Co-chairpersons, Garnet Hicks Wallace and Raymond Walton, who will receive his life membership at the Annual Dinner on June 14th, at the Statler.

Pictured from right, at the closing of the Membership Rally, at Mt. Ararat Baptist Church, April 22nd are: Rev. and Mrs. Eugene McAshan; J. Carl Bland, Co-chairman of Life Memberships, of the Buffalo Branch; Mrs. Garnet Hicks Wallace and Raymond Walton.



Pictured above is J. Carl Bland, left, co-chairman of the NAACP Life Membership as he receives a check from the Rev. Thomas A. Moore, assistant pastor of Bethel AME Church. A plaque will be presented to Rev. Moore at the NAACP Annual Dinner the second Sunday in June, as the local NAACP celebrates its 70th Anniversary.

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Rev. McAshan is the type of minister that will assess a situation and act in a manner which he finds necessary. There was a time when he looked at the youth of the church and found that the direction they were headed in was not best suited for the leaders of tomorrow. Rev. McAshan listened to the needs of the youth and implemented a plan. He decided that what was needed was a mini-seminar which would take place at an opportune time for all.

The mini-seminar consisted of a series of lessons. The first lesson was an introductory warm-up in which he tried to make the youth feel more comfortable with the controversial subject matter he chose to lecture on. This was human sexuality. I know many are thinking that this is a subject which is taught in school. However, I would like to point out that Rev. McAshan ingeniously combined human sexuality with religion to make a biological Sunday school lesson.

In the second lesson, Rev. McAshan stuck to topics which would allow the youth to have discussions and still feel comfortable. He discussed subjects on marriage and divorce, dating, and heavy petting. The third lesson was comprised of more in depth subjects. Some of these were, pre-marital sex, abortion, and suicide. Rev. McAshan clearly pointed out sections of the Bible which teach us how to govern our lives in reference to these topics. This gave the youth some guide which they could follow even when they are not sitting in a church congregation. It helped to teach the youth that as in school, when you are confused about the spelling of a word, you refer to the dictionary — accordingly, you can refer to the Bible about an uncertainty in life. I feel that this is a very important lesson which we as youth need to learn.

Rev. McAshan's mini-seminar did more than just teach, it helped to unify the church youth. When everyone realized that they had the same questions running unanswered through their minds, they felt a closeness. Also, Rev. McAshan's open-mindedness allowed the youth to relax enough to get to know each other. A demeanor such as that is not learned, it is a given talent. Nevertheless, he did not deviate from the purpose of compromising openness for education.

It is obvious that Rev. McAshan is multi-talented. He is a teacher, a leader, a role-model, a minister, and most important, a friend. I feel that his genuine effects should finally be acknowledged. THANK YOU REV. McASHAN, for being there when we, the youth, needed you the most!

First Lady Speaker For Pew Rally

A Pew Rally was held sponsored by the Missionary Society of Bethel on Sunday evening June 5 at 6:30 p.m. Sis. Bessie Robinson chaired the occasion. The Pew Rally was a concerted effort of all four units of the Missionary Society. The affair was well attended and though the planning of this particular Pew Rally was almost spontaneous in that it had been planned only five days prior the event was also financially successful.

The Ladies Usher Board No. 1 was on hand to render service and music was given by the Senior Choir and Gospel Singers. Solos were given by Sis. Yvonne Patterson, a member of Calvary C.M.E. Church here in the city as only she can sing them.



Jewel McAshan

The highlight of the evening came through the message that was brought to us by our "First Lady" and President of the Society, Sis. Jewel McAshan. Her message was truly inspirational. The subject: "Is There A Missionary In The House?" The scriptural reference was taken from St. Luke 10:2 — "Therefore He said unto them, the harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few— pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers into his harvest." She stated that the word Missions (Plural) is a noun. The name of a person, place, or thing, but that the word Mission (Singular) becomes a verb, and verb is a helping word. A Missionary then becomes a helper, a doer, because we are admonished by Christ to become doers of the word and not hearers only. We are to give, take, share, go, do, make, love, work, bring, support, help, . . . and the list goes on and on, but we are to be DOERS. She spoke of the NEED for leaders, as well as good followers. And the third and final point of the message dealt with the REWARD. The glean in the eyes and grateful smile of the elderly person when you bring them a hot meal that they are unable to prepare, or from just the time spent in a conversation when they are lonely, or the hug of a child when the very little things that we too often take for granted, makes him or her so very happy. Just knowing that you have tried to do what Christ has directed you to do and that you have succeeded is rewarding, but the greatest reward is promised to each of us when we shall have finished our work here on this plain— we shall move on up a little higher, and the greatest reward will be given by the Father himself.

And so, although this event was well attended and financially successful, it was inspirational also, and the latter is the most important.



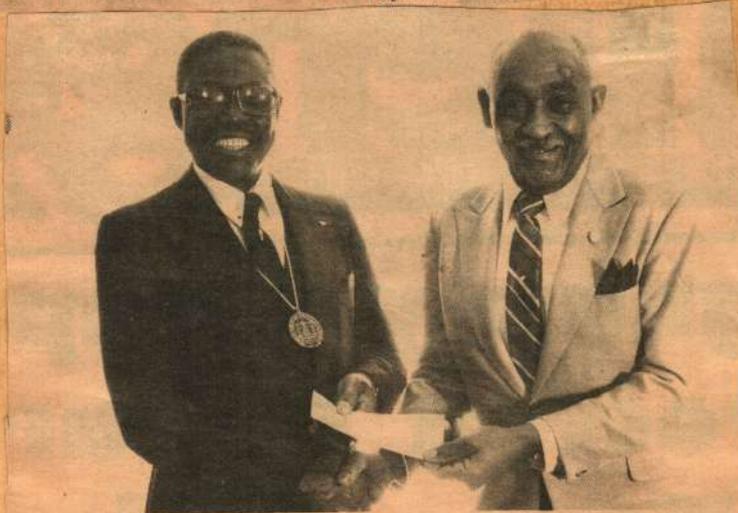
Bethel Places 1st In NAACP Membership Drive

Bethel A.M.E. Church, who will be celebrating its 150th Anniversary, with a Banquet at the Statler Hotel, on Sat., June 6th, has won the NAACP Membership Drive among participating Churches.

The church, pastored by the Rev. Eugene Earl Cornelius McAshan, won first place in two categories: bringing in the most members out of its membership, and for the greatest amount of money out of \$5.00 - \$500.00 membership range.

Accepting the awards for Bethel were Co-chairpersons, Garnet Hicks Wallace and Raymond Walton, who will receive his life membership at the Annual Dinner on June 14th, at the Statler.

Pictured from right, at the closing of the Membership Rally, at Mt. Ararat Baptist Church, April 22nd are: Rev. and Mrs. Eugene McAshan; J. Carl Bland, Co-chairman of Life Memberships, of the Buffalo Branch; Mrs. Garnet Hicks Wallace and Raymond Walton.



Pictured above is J. Carl Bland, left, co-chairman of the NAACP Life Membership as he receives a check from the Rev. Thomas A. Moore, assistant pastor of Bethel AME Church. A plaque will be presented to Rev. Moore at the NAACP Annual Dinner the second Sunday in June, as the local NAACP celebrates its 70th Anniversary.

• Garnet Hicks Wallace has been elected president and Morris Raiken, secretary of the Board of Visitors of the Buffalo Psychiatric



G.H. Wallace

Center, 400 Forest Ave. The Board of Visitors is appointed by the governor to monitor the quality of care provided to patients of the center.

Ms. Wallace, a member of the board for three years, had a 26-year career with the state Correctional Services Department serving as a teacher and parole officer.

Raiken retired in 1984 after a 34-year career with the Buffalo public schools, the last 15 years as assistant superintendent for secondary education.

Carolyn Thomas Receives Tribute

Buffalo, N.Y. — Carolyn B. Thomas, a renowned AME churchwoman and community activist was recently named "Buffalonian of the Year" by Mayor James E. Griffin, who said her name will be added to the shield that bears the names of others named Buffalonians of the Year. Her accomplishments span 3 decades of volunteer service.

Mrs. Thomas founded the Food Bank of Western New York 10 years ago and it has now become the 2nd largest east of the Mississippi and the 7th largest in the nation. Now it has expanded to four counties and will deliver 13 million pounds of food to organizations that help feed about 85,000 persons.

The ceremony was held in City Hall. At her side was her husband, Eugene and some officials from the food bank. She saluted the Buffalo Food Industries for their generous donations.

"Because of you, thousands of



Mrs. Carolyn B. Thomas

people will have a happier Thanksgiving and Christmas," Griffin said. "We are lucky to have someone like Carolyn Thomas in our community."

Carolyn is very active in her local church, Bethel AME, as well as in the Episcopal District and Connectional levels.

Bethel Offers Tutoring Program To Local Youth

Bethel A.M.E. Church, 1525 Michigan Ave., announces the opening of a Tutoring Program in Math, English, Reading, and History, for Grades 3 through High School, from 3 to 6 p.m., Monday thru Friday. Classes begin

Mon., Sept. 29th. The program is free.

Students needing a place to study, are incited. Call 886-1650, for further information.

Mrs. Ellen M. Morse, is director.

Jan 1987 Ellen Morse Honored



ELLEN MORSE

On May 16, 1987 the 83rd Annual Anniversary Banquet of the Naomi Chapter #10, Order of Eastern Star, Prince Hall affiliation, was held in the ballroom of the Hilton Hotel. Mrs. Ellen Matthew Morse was the honoree.

Sister Morse has been a member of Bethel, Buffalo, for 43 years. She serves the church in the following capacities: a member of the Dorcas unit of the WMS, member of the Lay Organization, Secretary of the Senior Steward Board, staff person for the Enrichment Program, and volunteer bookkeeper in the church office one day a week.

Mrs. Morse is now retired from employment but is busy with community activities and with the Prince Hall Masonic Family.

E.L.B. Chorus 17th Anniversary



Pictured above are the present members of the Eugene Lawrence Brotherhood. They are [seated] Berline Schumpert, pianist and director. Standing l-r: Robert Wright, George McMillan, James Adams. Back row [l-r]: Williams Smalls, Jr., Al Francis Epps, Edward Massey, Sr., Augustus Jackson, Isaac Jones and Rev. Samuel King. Not shown are Maceo McMillan, Samuel McMillan, Oscar Williams, Jonas L. Waits, Jr., Richard Saxon, Marcus Brown and Timothy White.

The Eugene Lawrence Brotherhood (ELBC) Chorus will celebrate their 17th anniversary at 7:30 p.m., Sunday October 17 at the Durham Memorial AME Zion Church, 174 E. Eagle St.

Some of the best musical talent Buffalo has to offer will perform. Admission is free.

During the summer, the chorus gave their first scholarships. The recipients were two graduates of

Grover Cleveland High School who majored in music.

The ELBC has clearly come a long way since its beginning and is proud of its membership. The group is constantly in demand.

The chorus feels that singing has always been and will remain important in religion, as it is a gift from God. Aside from skill, sincerity and understanding are essential elements if any group

wishes to succeed in singing the gospel. Those who sing, they add, should pray constantly for God's special blessing.

Page 8 Buffalo Challenger, Wednesday September 1, 1976

Local Citizens Visit Docked Norwegian Sailship

Clearstone Photo



On Saturday, August 28, 1976, a reception was held on board the Norwegian Full Rigged Sail Training Ship, Christian Radich, moored at the Erie Basin Marina were: Diane Burton, Executive Director of Buffalo Council on World Affairs, seen chatting with Captain Kjell Thorsen, R.N.O.N.; Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Kellogg; Mrs. Willard A. Morse, member of World Hospitality and her guest; Mrs. G.G. Crumpley, wife of Rev. Crumpley, pastor of Bethel AME Church; and Mrs. Essie Rogers, formerly of Cleveland, Ohio.



Betty Wyatt
Magnaard Wyatt
Kearl Richardson
Bethel
FCA
1980



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Dorothy Ballen
Magnaard Wyatt
Ruth Hallay
Geneva Mallem
J. Carl Bland
Bethel
FCA
1980



Lucille Parks
Margaret Wyatt
Lula Peoples

RECORD
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Lucile Parks
Ruth Halley
Betty
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Lula Peoples
Betty Wynnall
Joyce Bennett
Theddie Fordham

Beithel
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1950





Lucile Parks
Ruth Halley
Bertel
FCA





Daniel Stephens directs student band at Campus School

WNY's Good Listener

Blind Prof Leads Bands, Choirs

By H. KATHERINE SMITH
DANIEL R. STEPHENS, assistant professor of music at Buffalo State College, a blind organist and choir director of Bethel AME Church, directs bands and choirs without seeing the players or singers. From the age of 10 he has been totally blind due to a detached retina.

Despite his handicap, Mr. Stephens has been gainfully employed since he was 17. At that age, he became organist of a church in Detroit, the city where he was born and lived until he came to Buffalo last September. For 10 years, he taught music to blind pupils in Detroit schools.

MR. STEPHENS plays the piano, organ and cello, and has studied every instrument included in an orchestra. He has a degree in special education from Wayne University, a degree in music education from the University of Michigan, and a master's degree in music education from Michigan State University.

He has studied music therapy. His knowledge of this field is of value at Buffalo State's Campus School where three classes of retarded children are among his pupils.

He is delighted with the facilities and equipment of our Campus School. From time to time, he brings into his classroom a college student to check the position of his pupils' hands on their instruments and the mouth formation of those playing wind instruments. Disables' mothers are few because most pupils are genuinely interested in his courses.

"I TRY TO HOLD pupils' attention by making my courses consistently interesting," he told your Good Listener.

Mr. Stephens has composed music that he has played in churches but has not published. Shortly after arriving in this city, he telephoned the pastor of Bethel AME Church to enquire whether the minister knew of a local church in need of an organist. Told that Bethel Church was looking for an organist and choir director, Stephens went there and was engaged immediately. He conducts three choirs: the young adult choir, cathedral choir and gospel singers.

HE IS WRITING a book intended for sighted teachers of blind students of music. Its purpose is to give teachers an insight into what can be expected of blind students.

Mr. Stephens shares an apartment in Williamsville with Wilson Thompson, a friend from boyhood. Last summer, the two came here together from Detroit. Both obtained teaching posts immediately. Mr. Thompson is a member of the East High School faculty. In their apartment, Mr. Thompson is cook and general cleaner, while Mr. Stephens operates the dishwasher, washer and dryer.

INTERESTED in all kinds of music, Mr. Stephens tires of "rock" after a short time. Stevie Wonder, one of his former pupils in Detroit, has become a "rock" recording artist.

Bowling is a former recreation of Mr. Stephens. He plays cards and enjoys visiting various cities including Chicago, St. Louis, New York, and Washington. He also has traveled in Canada.

On the subject of violence by

blacks, he said, "I disapprove of it strongly, yet I know no important social change achieved without violence."

may, therefore, be a necessary evil."

of the music for a Campus Social variety show. He is a member of the honorary music society, Kappa Phi Lambda.

MR. STEPHENS is in charge



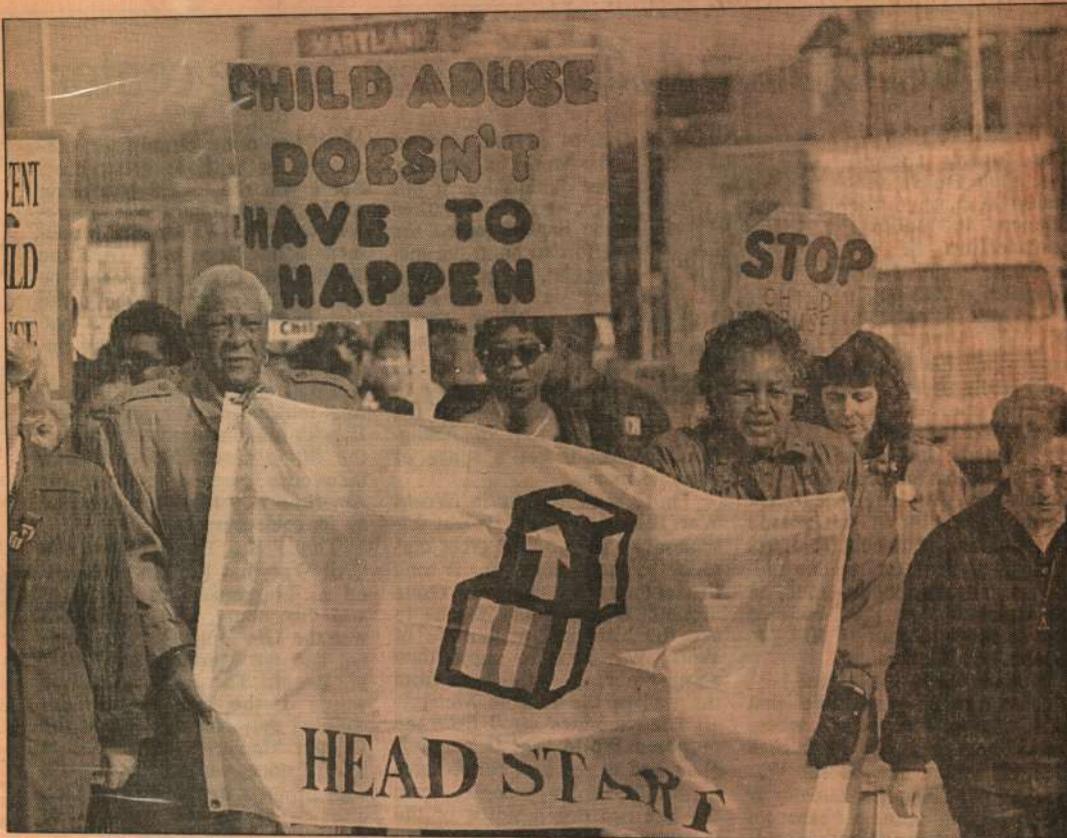
MIKE GROLL/Buffalo News

Carrying a message

Ethel Cobb, left and Addie Jackson, right, both of Head Start, carry a banner in a march against child abuse Friday from Holy Cross Head Start on Maryland Street to Niagara Square.



The Buffalo News/Saturday, April 26, 1997



MIKE GROLL/Buffalo News

Carrying a message

Ethel Cobb, left and Addie Jackson, right, both of Head Start, carry a banner in a march against child abuse Friday from Holy Cross Head Start on Maryland Street to Niagara Square.











UAW's civil rights panel to honor women activists

Two church women who have worked for many years as teachers and activists in Buffalo's African-American community will be honored Monday when the United Auto Workers' Civil Rights Committee holds its fourth annual luncheon in honor of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.

They are Sister Philip Marie, SSJ, of St. Boniface Parish and Carolyn B. Thomas, who has long been involved in the administration of area church schools run by the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

Sister Marie was principal of St. Boniface Elementary when it closed several years ago. She now runs a summer inner-city youth

program and is executive coordinator of the Fruit Belt Training Center.

Mrs. Thomas has been district superintendent of African Methodist Episcopal Church schools for 22 years. She is past president of the Women's Missionary Society and founder and first president of the Area Missionary Council.

She has served on the boards of many community organizations and helped organize the Bethel Head Start Program.

Nathaniel Head of the UAW's Solidarity House in Detroit, will be principal speaker at the luncheon, which will begin at 11 a.m. in the Hearthstone Manor in Depew.

New Bishop Sees Role For Church In 'Spirit' Rather Than In Politics

By Mack Alexander

Members of the African Methodist Episcopal church in Missouri and Kansas have a new bishop—one who would have his fellow members of the cloth spend more time preaching about the power of Spirit than about the power of politics.

Bishop Henry W. Murph, assigned Sunday to the 17 state 5th Episcopal District of the A.M.E. church, said the black clergy has put too much emphasis on electoral politics—an emphasis that he believes is threatening the spiritual foundation of the black community.

"The purpose of the church is to help people

rediscover their roots—ancestral and spritual—in the brotherhood of man and the fatherhood of God,"



BISHOP MURPH

Bishop Murph said in an interview this week. "I want to see the black church return to its spiritual mission."

Bishop Murph served the last four years as bishop of the 10th district, which comprises the state of Texas. In the 5th district, he follows the flamboyant and controversial Bishop H. Hartford Brookins, 5th district bishop for the last eight years. Brookins was assigned to the 12th district, which is made up of Oklahoma and Arkansas.

Bishop Brookins is highly active in local and national politics.

He has played a key role in Rev. Jesse Jackson's presidential campaign and with him in San Francisco. The Bishop has also led campaigns for Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley.

Locally, Bishop Brookins has raised campaign funds for Congressman Alan Wheat.

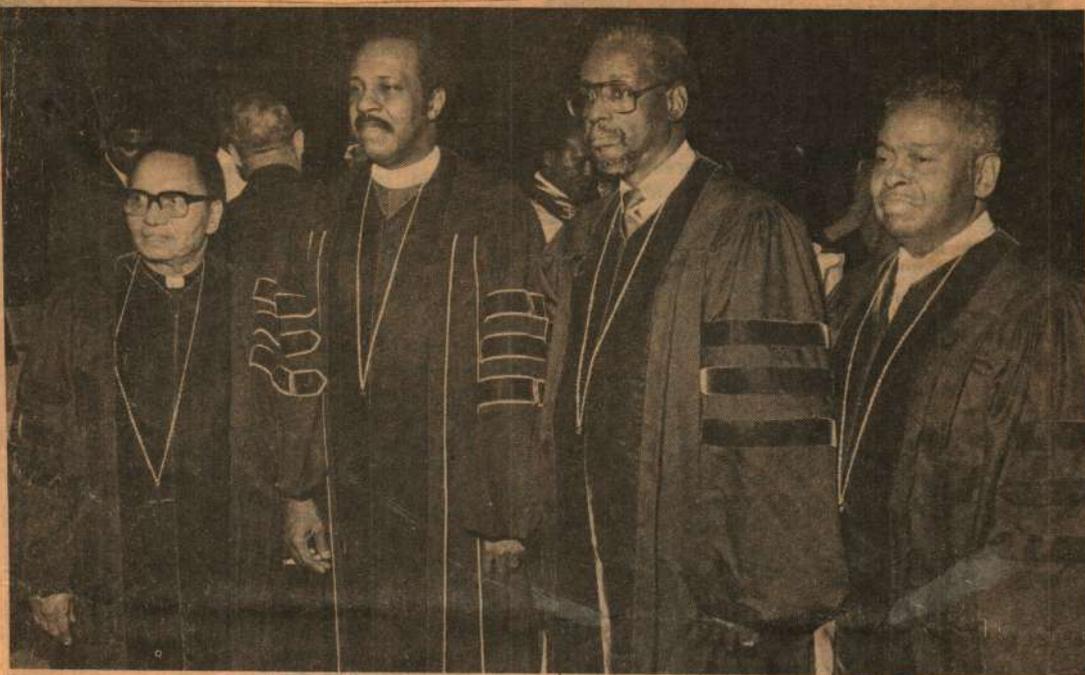
"With me politics is out," the 71-year-old Bishop Murph said. "That is not my style. I am low key, low visibility."

Bishop Murph said he is proud of the role the black church, and the A.M.E. church in particular, has played in the struggle and

advancement of black people. However, he added, campaigning for political offices and operating income-producing projects should be left to those black organizations that have been set up to do those things.

Too many of his fellow members of the cloth, he said are pointing to the increasing number of black elected officials, imposing buildings and sweeping economic development plans as power. While

Con't. pg. 2



NEW BISHOPS OF THE AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH...Four new Bishops were elected in the African Methodist Episcopal church during elections held the past week-end. The new Bishops are, from left to right: Dr. Harold Ben Senatle, South Africa, 102nd Bishop; Robert L. Pruitt, Washington D.C., 103rd bishop; Henry A. Belin, Nashville, Tenn., 104th bishop and Vernon R. Byrd, Newark, N.J., 105th bishop. The new bishops were consecrated during a service on Sunday afternoon at the Municipal auditorium arena, where sessions of the church's 42nd Quadrennial General Conference were held July 8 to 15. Photo by Rex Purefoy.

Elect New Prelates For The AME Church

By Lucile Bluford

In an election that consumed the better part of two days and two nights, the A.M.E. General Conference, which held its 42nd Quadrennial session here July 8 to 15, elected four new bishops last week-end, bringing the number of active prelates to 20 to serve the church's 19 Episcopal districts. The election began about 2 p.m. Friday and ended around 10 p.m. Saturday.

The new bishops, one

from South Africa, in the order of their election are:

1. Rev. Harold Ben Senatle, who was a minister in the East Transvaal conference of the A.M.E. church in South Africa.

2. Rev. Robert L. Pruitt, who was pastor of the Metropolitan A.M.E. church in Washington, D.C., known as the "National Cathedral of African Methodism."

3. Dr. Henry Allen Belin Jr., who was Secretary-

Treasurer of the Sunday School Union, Nashville, Tenn.

4. The Rev. Vernon R. Byrd, who was pastor of the St. James A.M.E. church, Newark, N.J., which has a membership of more than 3,000.

The new bishops were consecrated at a formal religious ceremony Sunday morning, July 15, in the arena of the Municipal auditorium with all of the bishops of the church, active and retired, par-

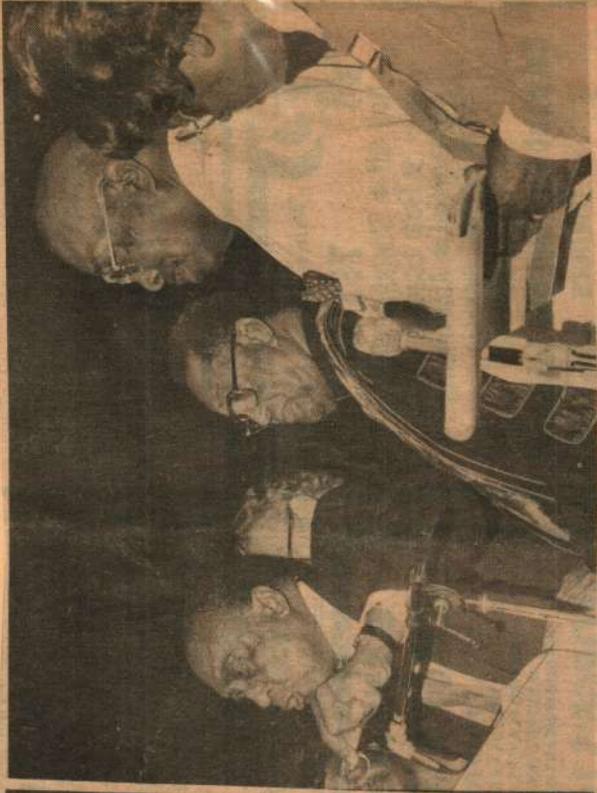
ticipating. Bishop W.T. Handy, presiding bishop of the Missouri conference of the United Methodist church, also took part in the service.

Using 20 voting machines, the 1472 voting delegates required five ballots to complete the election of the four bishops. Under A.M.E. law, each bishop elected must receive a majority of the votes cast. Forty-four candidates were in the race,

Con't. pg. 10



ference held on Sunday, July 15, at the Municipal Auditorium Arena. In the photo on the left, a delegate from Texas protests the assignment of Bishop Vinton R. Anderson to the 10th District, as



J.D. Williams, Kansas City, president of the A.M.E. Church, attempts to address the floor. Bishop H.H. Brookins, on the right, who was assigned to the 12th District makes a point as Bishop Henry Allen Washington, chairman of the Episcopal Committee look on. (Photos by Rex Pursefoy)



Carter Confers With Bishops

President Jimmy Carter listens while one of the members of the Council of Bishops of the African Methodist Episcopal Church [not shown] makes a point during a recent meeting at the White House. The Council was there as one of a series of consultative meetings with various groups.

Seated to the President's left and right respectively are Bishop Henry Murph, of the 2nd Episcopal District

[Maryland, District of Columbia, Virginia and North Carolina] and Bishop Samuel S. Morris, Jr., president of the Council and from the 11th Episcopal District [Florida and the Bahamas].

Seated behind the President from right to left are Louis Martin, special assistance to the President, Joe McKenney, treasurer of the A.M.E. Church and Diane Hampton, Martin's deputy.