5-11-2006

Papers; 2006-05-11; Annual Conference Report

Bethel A.M.E. Church

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Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church
1525 Michigan Avenue - Buffalo, New York 14209
Rev. Richard Allen Steenhouse - Pastor

2006 Annual Conference Report
175th Church Anniversary

"Honoring Our Past...Celebrating Our Present...Anticipating Our Future"

A Historic Church Making History
Rt. Rev. Richard F. Norris, Presiding Bishop, 1st Episcopal District
Mother Mary Ann Norris, Episcopal Supervisor
Rev. James E. F. Lawrence, Presiding Elder, Buffalo-Albany-Rochester District
Rev. Richard Allen Stenhouse, Pastor

Board of Stewards
Charlene L. McKinnon - Vice Chair

Meredith C. Anding Jr.
Marie Brown
Douglas Cassell
Joseph E. Demps
Cheryl E. Dublin
Linda B. Edwards
Armour R. Funderburg
Julie A. Hartley
Gavina W. Leonard

Peter Niblett
M. Elaine Smith-Ingram
Stafford C. F. Trueheart
Edward M. Williams
Jenee L. Williams
Vanetta Williams
Paula D. G. Young
Martha J. Younger

Board of Trustees

Daniel Adams
Rose Castro
Sonia Croxie
Gary Duncan
John Hart
Caroline Hoffman-Yeasey
Dedric Q. Johnson
Patricia Johnson

Deborah Lewis
George Mc Coulum
Trevor McNeal
Raymond Walton
Georgia Washington
James Willis
Louie T. Veasey
Sunday Worship Services
8 am & 10:30 am
9:30 am on 5th Sundays

Youth Church
10:30 am 1st - 3rd Sundays

Church School
9:15 am - 10:15 am
8:30 am on 5th Sundays

Radio Broadcast
Sundays @ 11:00 am WUFO- 1080 AM

Bible Study
Wednesdays @ Noon and 6:30 pm

Youth Bible Study
Wednesdays @ 6:30 pm

Prayer Circle
Saturdays @ 8:00 am

New Member Classes
3rd Sundays @ 9:30

Men’s Ministry
1st Saturday @ 10 am

Women’s Ministry
1st Saturdays @ 11 am

Birthday Celebration
3rd Sundays after 10:30 am Service

Book Friends
Monthly

Body & Soul Exercise & Walking Club
Saturdays after Prayer Circle

Lay Organization
4th Saturdays @ 10 am

WMS (Overall Society)
2nd Tuesdays @ 5:30 pm

YPD
3rd Sundays after Youth Church

Bethel Credit Union
After 10:30 am Service
Thursdays- 5:30 - 7 pm
Beloved:

Jesus Joy!

To my Bishop and Episcopal Supervisor, the Right Reverend Richard Franklin Norris and Mother Mary Ann Norris, Presiding Elder James E. F. Lawrence, Pastors, Ministers, Missionaries, Laity and friends of the Tenth Session of the Western New York Annual Conference. Greetings in Jesus Name.

It is my pleasure and privilege to make my ninth report as Pastor of Historic Bethel A.M.E. Church in Buffalo, New York. I thank the membership of Bethel-Buffalo for their continued prayers and support during my Pastorate. All that has been accomplished is because of God’s favor and the commitment, love, support and trust of the Bethel-Buffalo Family. I thank God for them. As we begin our one Hundred and Seventy-Fifth Anniversary Celebration, we can truly say God is Good!

This past year has seen God send sixty-nine individuals to unite with Bethel. New Ministries [Swinging Seniors and Women’s Ministry], growth in Bible Study, Church School and the Sons of Allen. The Music Ministry has been reorganized, our the Prayer Circle has grown as well. Spiritual growth was our focus this Conference Year. Bethel has grown by the grace of God’s Spirit.

Our Outreach Ministries, Bethel Head Start and Bethel Community Development Corporation (BCDC) continue to provide service to the greater community. Head Start provide Pre-K services to five hundred forty-three 3-4 year old children in the twelve centers located in Buffalo and surrounding suburbs.

BCDC has built and sold twelve homes and are slated to begin phase II and III of our housing building project: this project, at completion will provide twenty-five new homes for low and moderate income families and individuals. Our Eastside Development Project with the Belmont Shelter Corporation, will provide thirty new rental homes through a tax credit program that will allow the renters to purchase the homes for a nominal fee after 15 years. BCDC has constructed a retail center on Jefferson Avenue that will open in June 2006. This building will house a bank and three minority businesses.

God has allowed me to serve and provide leadership in the City of Buffalo. I was elected Secretary of the Buffalo Fiscal Stability Authority (Control Board); I serve on the Board of Regents of Canisius College and as President of the Jeremiah Partnership which is a 501c3 Corporation comprised of seven leading Churches in the Black community. To God Be the Glory!
To Rev. and Mrs. Smart, thank you for hosting this tenth session of the Conference.
To my wife, Sharon, thank you for your love, prayers and support.

I am excited about the celebration of our 175th Anniversary and the activities planned by the Anniversary Committee. Our past is historic, our present is significant and our future is limitless. Bethel continues to be a "A Historic Church, Making History"
God Bless and Keep you,

Rev. Richard Allen Stenhouse
Pastor

Pastor & Mrs. Stenhouse with
Daughter Nicole and Grandchildren, Tiana & Vernard
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Church: BETHEL-BUFFALO</th>
<th>Pastor's Name: RICHARD ALLEN STENHOUSE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mailing Address: 1525 MICHIGAN AVENUE BUFFALO, NEW YORK 14209</td>
<td>Mailing Address: 174 JEWETT PARKWAY BUFFALO, NEW YORK 14214</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phone: (716) 886-1650</td>
<td>Phone: (716) 835-8992</td>
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### Number of Conversions

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<td>Pastor's Retirement</td>
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### General Budget Paid

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<td>A.M.E. Review</td>
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<tr>
<td>Journal of Religious Education</td>
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<td>Secret Chamber</td>
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<td>Voice of Missions</td>
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<td>Presiding Elder's Salary</td>
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<td>Presiding Elder's Retirement</td>
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### District Administration

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<td>Advance Offering</td>
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<td>General Conference Sustentation</td>
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### Headquarters

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### Total Brought to Conference

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### Amount Raised for All Sources

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## 2005 INCOME STATEMENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INCOME</th>
<th>Bethel Church</th>
<th>Bethel CDC</th>
<th>Bethel Head Start</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tithes &amp; Offerings</td>
<td>542,044</td>
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<td>542,044</td>
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<td>Rental</td>
<td>72,607</td>
<td>38,098</td>
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<td>110,705</td>
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<td>Special Days</td>
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<td>Building Fund</td>
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<td>6,635</td>
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<td>Other Income</td>
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<td>356,175</td>
<td>5,517,310</td>
<td>5,902,628</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL INCOME</strong></td>
<td><strong>687,399</strong></td>
<td><strong>394,473</strong></td>
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<td><strong>6,598,082</strong></td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EXPENSES</th>
<th>Bethel Church</th>
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<th>Bethel Head Start</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Personnel</td>
<td>175,752</td>
<td>181,883</td>
<td>3,273,612</td>
<td>3,631,247</td>
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<td>Rent</td>
<td>9,000</td>
<td>296,881</td>
<td>52,876</td>
<td>305,881</td>
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<td>52,876</td>
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<td>01,116</td>
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<td>Supplies</td>
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<td>1,794</td>
<td>01,116</td>
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<td>Contracted Services</td>
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<td>98,203</td>
<td>391,476</td>
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<tr>
<td>Repairs and Maintenance</td>
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<td>6,132</td>
<td>85,720</td>
<td>121,154</td>
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<tr>
<td>Conference</td>
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<td>34,457</td>
<td>88,914</td>
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<td>Loans</td>
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<td>31,267</td>
<td>62,534</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Operating Expenses</td>
<td>324,583</td>
<td>56,257</td>
<td>1,315,629</td>
<td>1,696,469</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL EXPENSES</strong></td>
<td><strong>644,199</strong></td>
<td><strong>373,701</strong></td>
<td><strong>5,517,310</strong></td>
<td><strong>6,535,210</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Employees**

- 8
- 4
- 108
- 120
The mission of Bethel's Lay Organization is to serve as an "extension cord" in taking the Word of God, the mission of Richard Allen and the Vision of Pastor Stenhouse to the laity of the Church. Through its activities, the Lay Organization trains the membership in the application of God's principles to Christian living and extolling the relevance of African Methodism in today's society.

To this end, the Lay Organization publishes its Annual Birthday Calendar. Publishing the birthdays in the weekly Bulletin, the membership joins in on one accord in wishing each member a happy birthday, enhancing the family atmosphere.

This year, the Lay Organization's Annual Prayer Breakfast was served up with a twist! The message was delivered in the form of a play, "Faith Comes By Hearing". In the play, Faith, a feisty old Church lady, reminds all of us to get back to the practice of hearing from and doing the will of God.

Through Lay Activities, the membership receives revelation about God's Tabernacle and the beauty of Worship therein.

The five units of the Women's Missionary Society form a multi-faceted workforce of God's angels on the battlefield. While it may often seem that the WMS is called to action in times of strife or adversity, we must remember that God's strength is made perfect in our weakness and we learn that He will never leave us or forsake us.

The WMS of Bethel spent the year finding needs and filling them through its work at Cornerstone, the City Mission home for women; Ronald Mc Donald House; Gateway-Longview home for troubled teens; the W.I.G.L. Shower (Wrapped in God's Love) for the AIDS Alliance; Supported the Katrina Relief effort by sending clothing and black hair care products;

The WMS provides toys for tots and baskets of goodies for needy families making sure every child has a memorable Christmas.

The WMS also has 5 Associate members who assist them to meet the call of God's people.

Our Y.P.D. has been very active this Conference Year. They received the joy of serving God and others through their outreach projects at St. Vincent De Paul's Soup Kitchen; The YPD has once again participated in the Communion Ministry, accompanying the Ministerial Staff on Communion visits to the homebound, establishing a youthful bond between generations and the sharing of "his" and "her" stories that keep our Bethel's memories alive in the hearts of all who love and cherish her.
Our Men's Ministry has taken great strides this year. The men have been studying, fellowshipping and allowing God to use them and loose them for His Divine Plans. This year, they are walking under the theme: "Understanding the Purpose and Power of Men" Each Sunday, the Men's Study Class has shown an increase. The Men's Ministry of Bethel has raised up men to boldly proclaim and act on the Word of God.

Through this Ministry, the women of Bethel have a place to share their Christian experiences and develop in the wisdom of older and more mature Christian women. The Women's Ministry hosts a Sunday School class every Sunday and ministry sessions are held on the 3rd Saturday each month.
The Christian Education Department helps the congregation keep abreast of current issues facing Christians today. It is the overall body that monitors the teachings of every ministry in Bethel, so that each member not only receives the necessary equipment to serve and survive the Christian experience, but the proper training in the use of the equipment.

Bethel's Church School offers classes for all ages and interests. It provides teaching for our Men's and Women's Ministries as well as General Studies in our Adult Class. Children and teens will find classes specific to their interest too. This year, we are working toward developing a Covenant Model to develop an atmosphere of esteem and character development among generations.

Attendance has continued to grow. Every week, one or more of our Church School classes participates in our "Previews and Reviews" which have peaked interest of visitors and new comers alike. This year, the General Studies Class took on the project of writing their own Psalms. They will be showcased at our 175th Anniversary Concert in July.

Youth Church Services are geared to bring the youth and the young-at-heart to a place of knowledge, understanding, application and revelation of God's Will for the lives of His people. This year, we are embarking on a "Soul Train". The focus is to cleanse the body, spirit and soul of past hurts, current fears and arrive at a new level of forgiveness and peace.

Through the Preached Word, Drama and Roundtable discussions, congregation has been moving toward Christian and ethics that take each member to school, home and work. We believe that God takes us on an individual and collective journey and where He leads, we want to follow!
Ministries: The Joys of Learning the Word, Enjoying Longevity and Living Wisely

Bible Study

While everyday and every event at Bethel affords an opportunity for Bible Study, formal study classes take place on Wednesdays at Noon and 6:30 pm for adults.

Our Youth Bible Study is held on Wednesdays at 6:30. Youth Bible Study takes a youthful life application approach to the Word so that our young people can apply God's wisdom to their lives.

Swinging Seniors

Our Senior Ministry, known as the "Swinging Seniors, has received a fresh anointing after their kick off luncheon this year. We have active seniors ranging from 60 to 103 years of age! This year, they have been stepping out and stepping up to answer the call to help support our community's efforts to rebuild itself, including Potluck lunches, Afternoons at the movies and getting library cards from the newly erected Frank Merriweather Jr. Library, located in the Jefferson Avenue Corridor that Bethel's Community Development Corporation is working diligently to revitalize. Their goal is not to sit quietly, reflecting on their transition to eternal glory, but to maintain a lively role in the Church and its surroundings.

Financial Education

This year, Bethel hosted a series of Financial Seminars with the purpose of educating the membership about retirement planning, home buying, credit repair and the importance of establishing and keeping a good credit score. One future goal for this ministry is to assist our youth in establishing good savings and purchasing habits.
Ministries: Where We Exercise Our Faith, Walking With God

Our Health Ministry is dedicated to helping our members, both young and old, develop healthy eating styles. We encourage exercise, good eating habits and general health awareness.

Culinary Ministry

Our wonderfully talented Culinary Ministry provides meals for events here at Bethel. They provide breakfast for the Men’s Ministry on Third Sundays; Cakes for our Birthday Celebrations and Funeral Repasts.

Audio Visual Ministry

Our Audio Visual Ministry provides worship service material such as service recordings for our weekly radio broadcast on WUFO-1080 AM, and visual service helps on our viewing screen as well as maintaining our webpage- www.bethelamechurch.org. The Audio/Visual team is also responsible for all in-house printing of banners, journals and publications for Bethel. During the past year, we have branched out into the community for projects as well. This ministry also provides training for those who express an interest in learning a useful craft.

Music Ministry

Our Music Ministry serves as the backdrop to the Spiritual atmosphere here at Bethel. Be it traditional, gospel, praise and worship or youth oriented, the blended sound of band and voice catches God’s attention every time! The Music Ministry consists of the Sanctuary, Brotherhood, Praise Team and Youth & Young Adult Choirs.
The Bethel Head Start Program is committed to wellness that embraces a comprehensive vision of health for children, families and staff.

The program targets the health, education and welfare of its participants that includes nutrition, medical, dental and social services involving child, family and the community.

We are committed to executing its mission with high ethical standards and integrity. To ensure orderly operations and provide the best possible work environment, Bethel Head Start's employees, volunteers, consultants and collaboration partners are expected to follow rules of conduct that will protect the interest and safety of the Agency.

The staff, volunteers, consultants and collaboration partners of the Bethel Head Start Program are committed to:

- Successful implementation of Creative curriculum.
- The successful implementation of CCNET that provides internet access for Education staff.
- Teddy Bear Day at the University of Buffalo Dental clinic on February 6, 2006 served approximately 200 children. Live media coverage was provided by the "Why Guy" from News 4 Buffalo (WIVB TV).
- There has been a successful implementation of annual male involvement activities to support the ongoing involvement of fathers and significant males in the lives of their children.

The Bethel Head Start Program serves 544 children in 12 centers located throughout Erie County with 108 full and part time employees

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bethel Center</th>
<th>1485 Center</th>
<th>Beazmansville Center</th>
<th>St. James Center</th>
<th>Harlem Rd Center</th>
<th>EOC Center</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>1485 Jefferson</td>
<td>5360 Genesee St</td>
<td>500 Terrace Blvd</td>
<td>4255 Harlem Rd</td>
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<tr>
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<th>Perry Center</th>
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<th>GKA Center</th>
<th>UB Center</th>
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The Bethel Head Start Program Inc.
Bethel Community Development Corporation (BCDC) was created in 1998 with the vision of building a better community and enhancing the quality of life around Bethel AME Church. BCDC engages in services that will preserve, restore and enhance the residential and commercial character of the Historic Cold Springs Neighborhood.

BCDC is committed to the revitalization of its surrounding neighborhood. As the designated developer of its community, BCDC has received private and public financial support to provide new housing, rehabilitation of existing housing, educational services and economic development.

**Community Development**

Among its current projects, BCDC has partnered with the Buffalo Urban Renewal Agency to construct another 8 new homes for low to moderate income families and market rate home buyers. This is the 2nd phase of a 30 new home initiative. Although new construction is a key factor to stabilizing this community, BCDC also offers financial assistance to current residents to improve their homes and their quality of life.

**Educational Services**

Education is an integral part of community growth. In October 2003, BCDC received $1MM grant funds from the New York State and Erie County funds to construct a new state of the art Head Start Building. The facility not only provides educational programs for 114 children but it also provides extended day care and health services which are unique to the inner city community. Construction is to start in July 2006, with a November 2006 completion date.

**Economic Development**

Ministering to the economic needs of the community, BCDC has partnered with local Pastors to create a Retail Business Plaza for African American Businesses. In June 2006, the new plaza will open, creating business opportunities, retail space and jobs.

**Eastside Opportunities**

Joint development with Belmont Shelter that includes 30 scattered housing units located on various side streets of Michigan Avenue. These tax credit units will be sold at the end of the compliance period to low-income families. This project began in October 2005.

Bethel CDC continues to work with its partners to lead our community to its full potential.
New Homes Added to Cold Springs Neighborhood!

Mayor Byron Brown recently helped cut the ribbon on the next phase of the redevelopment of the Cold Springs neighborhood on Buffalo’s East Side. The project, headed by the Mayor’s Office of Strategic Planning and Bethel Community Development Corporation, has built dozens of new homes along Elsie Place, Ada Place and Purdy Street over the past two years.

“As you drive through this neighborhood, you can see before your eyes how the street is coming back to life with the building of these beautiful new homes,” said Mayor Brown. “Gone are many of the dilapidated, boarded-up houses, now replaced with new homes. Building strong neighborhoods is important for every community and this tremendous collaborative effort between the City of Buffalo and Bethel Community Development Corporation is another example of how the city and not-for-profit organizations can make a difference in our citizens’ quality of life.”

The Cold Springs neighborhood recently welcomed two new families at 19 and 20 Elsie Place.

“When we started this project, we had one goal: providing affordable, sustainable homes in the City of Buffalo,” said Timothy Wanamaker, Executive Director of the Office of Strategic Planning. “Also, we wanted to make sure these new homes were designed to emulate the existing neighborhood. The homes are also concentrated, not scattered around the neighborhood. This is another way we work to build a strong neighborhood foundation.”

Funding for the Cold Springs redevelopment comes from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development. The homes were built by Lamperelli Construction. The City of Buffalo is also building new homes in the historic Fruit Belt neighborhood and in the “Homeownership Zone,” which includes Davis, Canip, and Kane Streets.
Rev. Stenhouse and Elaine Taylor of M&T Bank discuss the plans to revitalize Jefferson Ave.

Ben Upshate addresses the media about the Jefferson Ave. Business Incubator.

BCDC staffer, Wendy Rogers discusses the Incubator Project with BCDC board member Caroline H. Veasey.

BCDC staffer Charles Colston talks with community members about the future of Jefferson Ave.

Rev. Stenhouse and the Jeremiah Partnership members break ground along with Mayor Massiello and County leaders.

Front and side views of the Jefferson Ave. Incubator building.

Phase II BCDC Housing Project on Elsie Place. Happy homeowner says, "It's good to see Buffalo's neighborhoods being rebuilt."
Bethel AME Church celebrates 175 years of inspiring the black community

A house of worship as a ‘home’ — a ‘life’

By Vanessa Thomas
News Staff Reporter

They came with countless stories of empowerment, hardship and overcoming adversity.

Sunday, about 500 people packed inside Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church — Buffalo’s oldest black church and oldest black institution — to commemorate the church’s 175th anniversary at their 9:30 a.m. worship service.

Charlotte Lewis is the church’s longest-living congregation member. Now 103, she has been attending the church since 1919.

“This church is my life,” said Lewis, who joined the church at age 16 when she moved to Buffalo with her family from Americus, Ga. “I remember when we were segregated and there was no place where we could eat.

“This church is just like being in your own house. It’s home.”

During the service, the Rev. Richard A. Stenhouse urged his congregation to commemorate the church’s anniversary by remembering the trailblazers who died fighting for equality.

“We have a long and distinct history,” Stenhouse told the audience from the pulpit as bright sunlight shone through the rainbow-colored stained-glass windows adorning the wall.

“You should be excited today to be part of 175 years of history. . . . You have no idea what they had to do to start this church.”

Bethel Church traces its roots to the Colored Methodist Society, Buffalo’s first black religious group, founded April 28, 1831. The members of Bethel, which is the city’s third-oldest religious community, have worshipped in buildings on Carroll Street, Vine Alley and Eagle Street.

Today, Bethel is located at 1225 Michigan Ave., at East Ferry Street, the site of the church since 1953. Con-

See Church on Page B2
Its oldest living pastor calls church a ‘beacon of light’

Garnet Hicks Wallace, 88, has been a member of Bethel for the last 58 years.

“When Rev. D. Ormonde Walker was here in the late 1940s, he sat outside in his car at Eagle and Jefferson and watched the A&P store and discovered that no blacks were working there,” recalled Wallace, who is also a missionary at the church. “Once he realized that, he got them to hire blacks.”

“He also got blacks to work in the department store,” chimed in 90-year-old Wilhah Dillard, who has been attending the church since she was 5.

In the 1940s, Bethel also held classes for men to pass the test to drive the city’s streetcars, Wallace recalled.

While Bethel was not a part of the Underground Railroad and did not harbor slaves, church members helped many slaves get to Canada to achieve their freedom, according to retired professor Cale Tisdale, a parishioner for 54 years who teaches Sunday school and is helping to write the church’s most recent history.

The anniversary service, part of a yearlong celebration, was a powerful mix of Scripture readings, prayers and lively hymns. Parishioners sang along to the hymns and tapped their feet as the pulsating beat of a conga drummer, organist, bass guitarist and a percussionist filled the quaint church, adorned with dark wooden beams in the ceiling.

Among the highlights of the service was the sermon delivered by 85-year-old Rev. John W.P. Collier Jr., the oldest living pastor of Bethel.

The former pastor served for two years until 1950 and was just 21 when he was a pastor at the church.

“This church is a beacon of light for this city,” Collier said in an interview just moments before he addressed the congregation. “I want to encourage people to stay in school, stay on their job, be good wives and husbands and good employees.”

Today, the church has about a dozen homes for low-income families in Elm Place in the Cold Spring section and runs the Bethel Head Start programs for preschool youngsters at 12 locations throughout the city and county. It also is erecting a retail incubator for minority-owned businesses at 1200 Jefferson Ave., across from Tops Market, a collaborative project with several other East Side churches.

“Bethel AME has been a leader in spreading the Gospel, first and foremost, and has been at the forefront of career opportunities, education and social justice,” said Stenhouse, who is also a member of the state financial control board for the City of Buffalo.

“We are still taking the Gospel outside of these four walls.”

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175th Anniversary Worship Service.
Bethel's oldest living former Pastor, Rev. John W. P. Collier (1948-1950) talks with Bethel's oldest living member, Mrs. Charlotte Lewis (108) about the good old days and the brand new days ahead.
Honoring Our Past

Celebrating Our Present

Anticipating Our Future
On the Edge

Have you not known? Have you not heard? The everlasting God, the Lord, the Creator of the ends of the earth, neither faints nor is weary. His understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the weak and to those who have no might He increases strength. Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall, but those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint (Is. 40:28-31).

Everyone goes through times in life when they feel like nothing is happening. Working hard with very few accomplishments. Nothing’s new on the horizon. Each day looks the same and feels the same. Goals are just as far away as they’ve always been. It gets tiring to work so hard, be so committed, and see no fruit.

Isaiah says that even young people get tired and weary, so tired that they can stumble and fall. But hope for tired people comes from the Lord. He says that if you trust in Him, He will give you a new strength—not just the ability to survive another day, but new strength that lifts you up and makes you soar. It’s the difference between just surviving tomorrow and soaring above the day with the strength and presence of an eagle. You don’t have to figure out how to be the eagle.

That’s God’s gift to those who trust Him and who call on Him on the days when life seems to be going nowhere.
During this extraordinary year, the 175th Anniversary Committee has decided to have the former Pastors and the Ministers who got their starts in Bethel to come back and grace us with a Word from the Lord. The following is a tentative schedule of our year-long celebration. We extend a warm welcome to you and your family to come celebrate with us.

May 28, 2006 ............................................................... Rev. Clara Castro
Pastor, Living Water Fellowship

June 25, 2006 ............................................................... Guest Preacher TBA

July 15, 2006 ............................................................... Anniversary Banquet
Hyatt Regency Bilo

July 16, 2006 ............................................................... Bishop Richard F. Norris
Presiding Prelate, 1st Episcopal Dist.

July 22, 2006 ............................................................... Church Social
Como Lake Park

July 23, 2006 ............................................................... 175 Years of Worship Anniversary Concert

July 30, 2006 ............................................................... Guest Speaker TBA

August 20 & 27 ............................................................... Guest Preachers TBA

September 20-22, 2006 ............................................................... Fall Revival

September 24, 2006 ............................................................... Family & Friends Day

October 29, 2006 ............................................................... Women's Day
Rev. Carrie Noble
People's Institutional AMEC
"It cost our forefathers sweat and tears to bequeath the rich heritage we possess. If we would listen by the ear of faith, we would hear them say, "Take care of the church."

Reverend Harry White Sr., 1956

In remembrance of the men who have led Historic Bethel from the past, to the present and into the future.

"And the glory of the Lord will be revealed in this place."
From the Sermon: "You Ain't Seen Nothing Yet!"
Rev. Richard Allen Stenhouse, December, 2005