

Religion

FOCUS

Patterson tends young flock

By ROBIN BARKSDALE
Chronicle Staff Writer

The founder of Ambassador Cathedral said that any type of growth must begin with a young seed and that's the principle on which he built his church.

In 1965 Bishop F.D. Patterson began a group known as Ambassadors for Christ, a youth group which operated within the Baptist church. The purpose of the group, he said, was to find a way to keep young people interested in participating in church activities and to make them realize their importance to the overall church. For Patterson, the organizing of Ambassadors for Christ was a continuation of his ministry to young people that began when he first became a minister.

"My ministry has always been with young people," said Patterson, who is celebrating his 39th minis-

For blacks, cocaine and crack have become a symbol of 'stepping up' and doing things that other people are doing. It's (using drugs) become a status symbol.
— Bishop F.D. Patterson

terial anniversary this week. "I've always had a natural attraction to and interest in teen-agers. Most of the churches are started with young people."

But Patterson, a native of Indianapolis, didn't always plan on being a preacher or dedicating his life to ministering to young people. What he actually had in mind for a career was far removed from the course he finally chose. Patterson said he had his heart and mind set on being a scientist and joined the Navy in anticipation of developing skills to lead him in that direction. But somewhere along the line, he said, his course got switched and he found himself in the pulpit instead of in the science lab.

"I was always very interested in scientists. I had just gotten out of the Navy and I planned on being a

scientist," said Patterson, who attended Butler University. "The Lord impressed upon me that he wanted me to preach. So I gave up the idea of being a scientist and I went to seminary in Louisville."

The science field's loss may have been the religious field's gain, particularly when it came to bringing young people to the church in active roles.

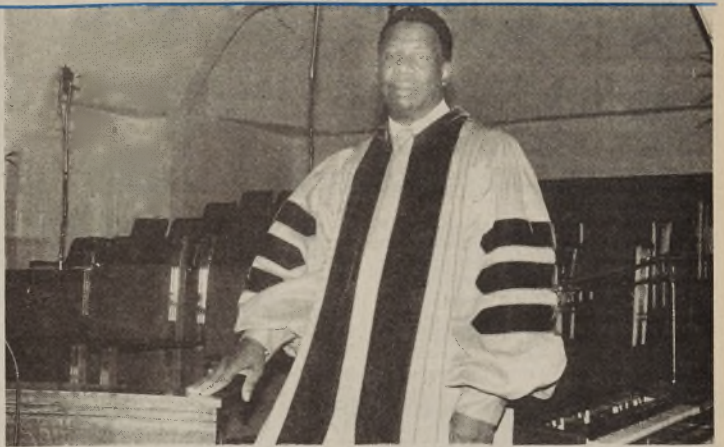
In 1970, Patterson extended his ministry beyond the Baptist church and founded Ambassador Cathedral, an interdenominational church organization. He said his reasons for focusing so much attention on young people are a matter of logic and a matter of growth and survival.

"Young people are the church of tomorrow, the world of tomorrow, the citizens of tomorrow," he said. "But they're also the citizens and the church of today. If you start with a group of young people, they'll help bring their parents in. They're the ones who will carry on so they've got to become interested and involved now."

But Patterson admits that the mission of ministering to young people is not always easy, particularly today when they have so many other distractions and temptations. Too many churches, in Patterson's opinion, have chosen not to devote enough time to providing youth-oriented programs at their churches and have lost them by the time they become adults.

"You just have to have someone with the mind and emphasis on young people," Patterson said. "Young people feel that everything is for adults and they feel left out. Too many churches are waiting until they get grown to deal with them."

Patterson said that a lot of young people are "going bad" simply because they have nothing else to occupy their time except drugs and other harmful activities. He said the kinds of things that brought young people to church and kept them out of trouble years ago, like the lure of free movies and fellowships, are losing the battle against the things that keep them away, like drug abuse and crime. He said that the



Bishop F.D. Patterson: Bringing youth back to church is a critical part of his ministry (photo by Mike Cunningham).

church is in a position to provide an alternative to those activities just by letting their young people know there is a place for them in church and that someone will be there to listen to them and help with their problems.

"I admit that in the last few years it has gotten more difficult to attract young people, but most times they will be attracted just because someone takes time for them," said Patterson who with his wife raised eight children of their own and two foster children. "You don't have to have any great charisma or the Pied Piper effect. We don't have the impact in the community like we used to. It's hard to get them used to coming to a church building for anything."

Patterson said finding a solution to the problems of youth in general can be traced to the home and to the school. Parents, he said, must take the lead in helping children channel their energies into positive activi-

ties.

"Youth not being involved in the church is one of the symptoms of the problems they're having," said Patterson. "They're looking for something to thrill them and it's something that they don't get at home or at school. For blacks, cocaine and crack have become a symbol of 'stepping up' and doing things that other people are doing. It's (using drugs) become a status symbol."

As he celebrates his 39th year in the ministry, Patterson said he also is relieved to see family groups returning to the church.

"For me to be able to look out and see families coming to church together is very rewarding," he said. "We're getting back to the old ways of families coming to church and then taking the church back out to the community."

CHURCH CALENDAR

THURSDAY, MAY 12

The Quarterly Assembly of New Faith Chapel Holiness Church will be held through May 15 at 7:30 nightly at Open Door Apostolic Church. The guest speakers will include Elder Reginald Eldridge, the Rev. J.B. Morrison, the Rev. Doris Russell, and Dr. Lawrence S. Tate. The assembly will close at 4 p.m. Sunday. For more information call 784-7699. Tate is the general overseer; C.L. Acker is host pastor.

FRIDAY, MAY 13

The Youth Alive of St. Peter's Church of God Apostolic will present their first annual youth revival "Rappin for Jesus" through May 15. The program will be held at 7 p.m. May 13, 10 a.m. May 14, 7:30 p.m. May 14, and at 6 p.m. May 15.

SUNDAY, MAY 15

Friendship Baptist Church will begin its annual spring revival at the 11 a.m. worship service. The revival will run through Friday, May 20. The evangelist for the week will be the Rev. Lorenzo A. Lynch, pastor of White Rock Baptist Church in Durham. Services will be held nightly at 7:15. The Rev. S.E. Tyndall is pastor.

The Junior Missionary Department of Calvary Hill Apostolic Church, 2411 Urban St., will hold a youth day program at 4 p.m. The topic is "Youth Speak Out." Elder C.C. Turner is host pastor.

The Youth Choir and the Tots Choir of Union Baptist Church will present their 10th anniversary concert at 4 p.m. Sherwood T. Davis is minister of music.

MONDAY, MAY 16

Christ Rescue Temple Apostolic Church, 1500 N. Dunleith Ave., will hold its annual revival through May 20 at 7 nightly. The guest evangelist is Bishop U.I. McCall, pastor of Behel Apostolic Church in Florence, S.C. The host pastor is Bishop W. Davis Jr.

Revival services will be held at Zion Hill Baptist Church through May 20 nightly at 7:30. The evangelist for the week will be Elder James R. Woodson, co-pastor of Mount Zion United Holy Church in Danville, Va. He currently serves as first administrative assistant of the state of Virginia. The Rev. John Walker is host pastor.

The annual spring revival services will begin at St. Stephen Baptist Church and run through May 20. Elder Richard Hairston, pastor of Holy Trinity Church of God and Christ, will be the evangelist for the week. The Rev. J.R. Samuels is host pastor.

The 8th annual Holy Convocation of Macedonia Holiness Church of God Inc. will convene at the headquarters church, 4111 Whitfield Drive, through May 22. The theme for the event is "Let Jesus Be Jesus in You." Services will be held at 7:30 nightly. The final service will be held Sunday, May 22, at 3 p.m. Dr. Robert L. Wise is host pastor and general overseer of Macedonia Holiness Church of God Inc.

TUESDAY, MAY 17

Evangelist Shirley Ceasar will present the annual spring revival through May 20 at Mount Calvary Holy Church. The guest evangelist

Please see page B5

CHURCH NOTES

B.F. Daniels to deliver keynote address at Shiloh service

The Pastor's Aid Auxiliary of Shiloh Baptist Church will celebrate its Annual Observance Sunday, May 15, at 7 p.m.

The Rev. Benjamin F. Daniels, pastor of Union Baptist Church, and congregation will be the honored guests.

Daniels, a native of Weldon, is a graduate of Booker T. Washington High School in Norfolk, Va. He earned a Bachelor of Divinity Degree from Norfolk State College in 1965 and a Master of Divinity Degree from Shaw Divinity School in 1974. Since 1982, he has studied toward a Doctorate Degree in Ministry at St. Mary's Seminary and University, of Baltimore.

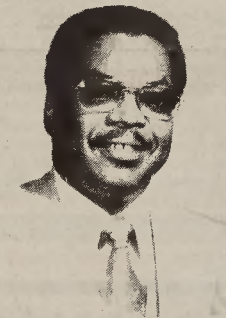
For the past seven years he has been the pastor of Union Baptist Church.

He served as pastor of First Baptist Church in Lexington from 1969 until 1981.

His career began at Shaw University in Raleigh, North Carolina where he was a Dormitory coun-

selor from 1962 until 1965, and Dean of Men from 1965 until 1966. From 1966 until 1974, he was a 1974, he was a Southern Baptist Missionary with the Baptist State Convention and he has served on the Board of Friends of the Shaw Divinity School. Daniels was also president of the Forsyth County Baptist Training Union, directing a program of teaching and training among the Baptist Churches of Winston-Salem; treasurer of the Rowan Baptist Association and Chairman of the Housing Committee of the General Baptist Convention, as well as a member of the Progressive National Baptist Convention, Lott Cary Foreign Missionary Convention and the Pilot Mountain Baptist Association Strategy Planning Committee.

He served as co-director of the Summer Lunch Program in Davidson County, North Carolina, as tour host with Wholesale Tours International, and as a teacher with the Seminary Extension of the Baptist



B.F. Daniels

State Convention in Raleigh.

In his community, Daniels has served as treasurer of the Emancipation Proclamation Day Association, and was a member of the Christmas Cheer Toy Shop and of the Executive Board of Crisis Control Ministries. He presently holds a membership in the Acacia

Lodge, the John G. Lewis Junior Consistory 326, the Al-Khattab Temple (charter member) and the Eta Beta Beta Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc.

He has been recognized throughout his career with plaques from the Elks of North Carolina for working with youths, the Lexington Ministeria Association for outstanding service and the First Baptist Church of Lexington, for outstanding accomplishments. He has been awarded the key to Union Baptist Church.

He also received a Distinguished Service Award of Appreciation from Shaw Divinity School. His biographical sketch is listed in Marquis Who's Who In Religion. Daniels is married to the former Bronnie M. Harris of Winston-Salem, a counselor for the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County School System.

He and his wife reside at 3911 Tony Drive.

Youth Alive schedule 'Rappin' for Jesus'

The Youth Alive of St. Peter's Church of God Apostolic will present their First Annual Youth Revival, "Revival, Rappin for Jesus," on Friday, May 13 through Sunday, May 15 with guest speaker Stephen Wiley, the originator of "Gospel Rap".

Pastor Wiley is a graduate of Rhema Bible Training Center, where he studied evangelism.

While attending Rhema, he was a member of the Rhema Singers and Band and traveled with the Kenneth Hagin Ministries' crusade.

A licensed and ordained minister, Wiley is currently serving as

Youth Pastor at Love Center Christian Fellowship in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

A "new breed" of evangelist, Wiley ministers with a style that is bold, dramatic, warm and humorous. Through the medium of rap music, Wiley reaches out to young people with a positive message of inspiration, encouragement and success. Pastor Wiley states, "Through gospel rap music, I establish a rapport with young people that enables me to tell them about the reality of God's love for them in a way they can relate to."

St. Peter's is located at 1031 Highland Ave.



Celebrating A Milestone

St. Philips Moravian Church recently celebrated its 166th anniversary, with a traditional Moravian lovefeast ceremony. The Rev. Cedric Rodney was the featured speaker (photo by Harden Richards).

Marino returns to the South as first black archbishop

WASHINGTON (AP) -- Bishop Eugene A. Marino, about to become the first black archbishop of the Roman Catholic Church in America, returns this week to a South he believes has "come of age" since he left his native Mississippi 36 years ago bearing childhood wounds of racial prejudice.

The 53-year-old Marino, an auxiliary bishop in the Washington, D.C., archdiocese since 1974, was installed last week as archbishop of

Atlanta, taking charge of a 69-county region of northern Georgia.

Marino recalls a childhood in Biloxi, Miss., in which, for example, he and his sister were kicked out of a coin-operated laundry because they were black. But he said in a recent interview feels "personally very comfortable" about returning to the South.

"I think that the South has

changed and come of age and grown," he said. "In many ways, the race question has been more effectively addressed in much of the South than it has been in the North."

"I think I will be able as a black person to function better in a Southern situation, as a Southerner, than I might be able to function in some Northern situation," he said.

Marino's appointment by Pope

John Paul II in March came more than two years after he and other black bishops wrote a pastoral letter calling on the church to increase the number of blacks in official positions.

One of only 12 black bishops in the United States, Marino became the first to hold an office in the National Conference of Catholic Bishops when he was elected secretary of the organization in 1985.