

Religion

Bethesda issues plea for more volunteers

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Chronicle Staff Writer

In 1986, a local Task Force on the Homeless estimated that there are approximately 150 to 300 homeless persons in the community. The staff at the city's centers, which deal with the homeless on a daily basis, say the estimate is conservative at best.

Anita Chaffee, the public relations director at the Bethesda Center, said the number of homeless persons is increasing rapidly and that a larger pool of volunteers is desperately needed to help attend the needs of those who have no home.

"There are going to be more and more homeless people come winter time," she said. "There are several homeless families here now. There are a lot more people migrating to this area because they've heard it's a nice area and that they can get jobs. But when they come and don't get jobs or can't find anywhere to live, they become homeless and we've got to find homes and jobs and food for them."

The Bethesda Center, located in an old church building on the corner of 10th Street and Patterson Avenue, has undertaken the task of getting the homeless off the streets and into jobs and houses. Workers at the center get the homeless individuals identification, help them fill out job applications, find housing and offer them reading and Bible classes. It's an awesome task, much of which is accomplished by volunteers. But, Ms. Chaffee, said, the shortage of assisting the clients at the center is large, and more volunteers are needed to help make a dent in eliminating some of the city's homeless population.

"It's amazing, after you mingle with them for awhile, you gain intelligence some of them have. Many of them finished high school. Many of them are looking for jobs. They're not derelicts. The community needs to look upon them as less fortunate people. They're less fortunate creations of God."

—Dr. H. Rembert Malloy

There currently are six volunteers at the Bethesda Center — three Afro-Americans and three whites. But the clients who frequent the center far outnumber the volunteer pool.

"If we can get about five or six more volunteers, we'd be able to get so much more done and to offer more things for our clients," Ms. Chaffee said. "Retired teachers can teach classes to our clients or people can offer their time and abilities they have. There are a variety of ways in which volunteers can help us out."

Dr. H. R. Malloy, a retired surgeon, is one individual who has committed his time to helping the homeless people of the city. He, along with other committee members, is in the process of establishing weekly medical services at the center on Sundays. Malloy said that it is incumbent on area churches to help get more people from their congregations to become volunteers.

"I think that churches have the people whose hearts may be turning the other way," Malloy said. "The people who profess to be serving God are mostly church-oriented. The appeal needs to come basically from the church."



photos by Mike Cunningham

Volunteers John R. Smith and Dr. H. Rembert Malloy spend some time getting to know one of the Bethesda Center's clients. The two are among the center's pool of volunteers. Staff members say more volunteers are needed to maximize the center's potential for helping the community's homeless population.

Malloy, who said he has found his volunteer experience at the center "rewarding," also feels that there is a misconception in the community with respect to individuals without homes.

"There are homeless people and there are street people," he said. "Street people are those individuals who are in the streets during the day but who have a home to go to at night. The homeless have no place to go. They sleep in the streets and under bridges at night. But people think that all of these individuals are derelicts. It's amazing, after you mingle with them for awhile, the intelligence some of them have. Many of them finished high school. Many of them are looking for jobs. They're not derelicts. The community needs to look upon them as less fortunate people. They're less fortunate creations of God."

P.J. Williams, a member of First Presbyterian Church, which was instrumental in establishing the Bethesda Center, helps out at the center as a receptionist and in other capacities. She said she became a volunteer because she realized that without the center many more homeless people may perish.

"We offer services to these people. If it were not for the center, some of them would not have jobs, food, housing or medical services," said Ms. Williams, a local school teacher. "If not for the center, some of them would just fall by the side. The center offers them services to help them out in some way."

The Bethesda Center opened in September of last year and serves an average of 58 homeless individuals each day. The center's clients receive a snack in the morning, medical screenings and, perhaps most importantly, Ms. Chaffee said, the feeling that they have a place to call their own even if just for the daytime hours.

"I think that they know that this is a place where we accept them, where they can feel accepted," she said. "There's a world out there that is not very accepting of homeless people. Many of them come in here dirty, with dirty clothes and smelling and we hug them. We accept them unconditionally and we love them unconditionally just as the Lord did for us. We love them unconditionally. That's why they keep coming back. They know that we accept them just the way they are and we encourage them. That gives them a willingness to do better. The Bethesda Center is a place where

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they can feel a sense of peace."

Although it is situated in the heart of the Afro-American community, the Bethesda Center has a melting pot of clients. During one hour's time at the center, there are Afro-Americans, Native Americans and white Americans passing through the Bethesda Center's doors, although Ms. Chaffee said that the majority of the center's clients are Afro-American homeless individuals.

Ms. Chaffee said that she is hoping to expand volunteer recruitment efforts for the center and plans to tap some of the volunteer resources of

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CHURCH CALENDAR

FRIDAY, JULY 22

The Total Women's Ministry of Mount Olive Baptist, 1301 Belevs St., will hold their monthly meeting at 7:30 p.m. The speaker will be La Marcet Malley. Her topic will be "Sacrifice and Praise." The Rev. Charles Gray is pastor.

Resurrection Day Camp will hold its closing program at 7:30 p.m. at Mebrook Presbyterian Church. The camp students will present "Godspell" as part of the closing activities. The performance will be directed by pastor Gary Orr from Philadelphia.

The Mighty Wonders will present a free gospel concert at the Outta the Box series at Winston Square Park from noon to 1 p.m.

SUNDAY, JULY 24

Dr. Jerry Savelle, an evangelist, teacher and president of Jerry Savelle Ministries, will speak at St. Peter's Church God of Apostolic, at 6 p.m. Savelle is well known for his biblical teaching and has conducted seminars, crusades and conventions for a number of years. For more information call 722-2285.

The Senior Usher Board of First Calvary Baptist Church will celebrate its 69th anniversary and the 11th anniversary of its president, Henry Saxon, at 4 p.m. The guest speaker will be the Rev. Charles E. Gray, pastor of Mount Olive Baptist Church. He will be accompanied by the choir and congregation of his church. Minnie Bell Floyd is program chairman; Dr. L. Wilson is host pastor.

Rising Ebenezer Baptist Church will hold its annual "100 Women in White." The guest speaker will be the Rev. James Ledbetter, associate pastor of Temple Memorial Baptist Church in High Point. The pastor is B.J. Patton.

The General Baptist State Convention will be held in Winston-Salem during the week of July 24-27. All Baptist churches are invited to participate in the mass choir for the pre-musical that will be held Sunday, July 24, at the Benton Convention Center. Rehearsals will be held at Zion Memorial Baptist Church each Tuesday night from 7 to 9. For more information call 722-2285. Kinchen at 969-2270, 750-2521 or Dolly K. Mack at 767-8268.

MONDAY, JULY 25

Dr. Quincy A. Caldwell and members of Greater United Progressive Baptist Church, 1122 Quincy Caldwell Circle, will hold their summer festival through Friday, July 29. The evangelist for the week will be the Rev. Michael King, pastor of Garden of Prayer Baptist Church in Greensboro. Services will be held nightly at 7:30. Dr. Quincy A. Caldwell is host.

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CHURCH NOTES

East Coast Pentecostal Women to convene in Twin City

The Fifth Annual East Coast Pentecostal Women's Convention will convene on Wednesday, July 20 through Sunday, July 24 at Ambassador Cathedral, located at 1500 Harriet Tubman Drive.

Bishop F.D. Patterson is the host pastor.

First lady Dorothy Patterson is anticipating a spiritual renewal for all women during this very special session of the Women's Convention. She honestly desires the spiritual and social growth of women everywhere. She said that it is her sincere prayer that women in general and especially black women, would stop putting themselves down. She has taught the women of Ambassador Cathedral to have pride in their appearance, pride in their devotion and worship to God, and pride in their chosen careers.

A church member said that Mother Patterson is best described in Proverbs 31 (25-31).

"She is a woman of strength



Patterson

and dignity, and has no fear of old age. When she speaks, her words are wise, and kindness is the rule for everything she says."

First Lady Dorothy Patterson, the Ladies Guild of Ambassador Cathedral has extended to all an

invitation to come and share in these spirit-filled and uplifting services and seminars.

First lady Dorothy D. Patterson will preside over the 1988 session of the convention. The following is the itinerary for the services to be held throughout the convention. Guest speaker for Wednesday, July 20, evening will be Dr. Paula Newsome of Charlotte. She will present her address at 7:30.

Services will be held Thursday, July 21, at 8 p.m. The services will take place at the Ambassador Temple, located at 8 Church Street, Thomasville. Elder Edward L. Allen is host pastor. Guest speaker will be Evangelist Charlesetta Lawrence of Los Angeles. Music will be provided by the Ambassadors for Christ Choir.

Friday, July 22, through Saturday, July 23, there will be a special Women's Retreat at the Holiday Inn West on Silas Creek Parkway.

A Banquet Celebration will be

held Friday at 7:30 p.m. The guest speaker will be Sister Evelyn Holland of Asheboro.

Brunch will be held Saturday at 10 a.m. The guest speaker will be Hazel Mack, a local attorney.

The conference will take a shopping spree to Burlington at 2 p.m.

There will be a worship experience Sunday, July 24, at Ambassador Cathedral at 11 a.m. The guest speaker will be Evangelist Charlesetta Lawrence.

Music will be provided by the Women's Convention Mass Choir.

There also will be a worship experience at 7 p.m. The guest speaker will be Evangelist Lawrence.

Communion Service will be conducted by Bishop F.D. Patterson Sr. The service will conclude the 1988 session.

For further information please call the church office at 725-0901 or 723-1965.

New black United Methodist bishop wants to be role model

LAKE JUNALUSKA, N.C. (AP) — As the second black bishop elected to the 48-year-old Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference of the United Methodist Church, Joseph Bethea says a priority will be to encourage minorities to come back to the church.

"The most important things in my life are the Lord, my family, the church and people," Bethea said in an interview Thursday.

Bethea, 55, was elected on the 12th ballot late Wednesday night by the 588 delegates attending the conference, which represents United Methodists from nine southeastern states.

"I think my election will make young people of all races say, 'I can be like that,'" said Bethea, the dis-

trict superintendent of the North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church in Raleigh.

He could be the only minority candidate to be elected at the five jurisdictional conferences being held this week across the country, said Bob Lear of the United Methodist News Service.

"This (election) says the church is concerned," Bethea said. "The image of the church is very important. Who are the leaders? Who are the bishops? I see me serving as a kind of model for young people of all races."

Bethea said he was prepared for the election process to drag on throughout the week. The conference concludes Saturday.

"Four years ago it was a severe

loss," he said. "That only makes what happened last night all that much better."

Bethea, a second-generation Methodist preacher who grew up in Dillon, S.C., has served as pastor at churches in South Carolina and North Carolina.

Bethea, who is married and has one daughter, also served as superintendent of the Virginia Methodist District in Richmond, Va., from 1965-68. He served in the same capacity in the Rockingham District of the N.C. Conference for seven years beginning in 1977.

Before that assignment, Bethea was director of the Black Church Studies Center at the Duke Divinity School in Durham from 1972-77.

In 1986, he was named superin-

tendent of the North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church in Raleigh. For five years, he was administrative assistant to the resident bishop of the Raleigh area.

"I love the church," he said. "I guess I have to love it because, except for a very short period, I haven't lived anywhere else but a church parsonage."

Bethea becomes the second black bishop in the jurisdiction's history. Four years ago, the conference elected Ernest Newman to the Nashville, Tenn., post.

Seven bishops were elected at the conference, the last two Thursday being Clay F. Lee of Jackson, Miss. and Charles W. Hancock, of

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