

Saints and Sinners: Thoughts go to end of summer

I sat two pews behind former first lady Barbara Bush at St. Ann's Episcopal Church in Kennebunkport, Maine, one Sunday this August.

I went up to introduce myself after the service. "Did you know Dean Emerson?" I asked. "I knew Dean Emerson well for many years," she replied.

We were referring to the late Rev. Chester Emerson, dean of Trinity Cathedral in Cleveland. For many years, he occupied the pulpit at St. Ann's during the summer months.

Dean Emerson inspired me to go into the ministry. He gave the "charge to the minister" at my ordination.

"Love your Lord and make him master of your life," he said. "Let no other loyalty detract from that loyalty, for all other loyalties are deepened and enriched in the measure that your de-

voition deepens."

Those words are still on my wall and in my heart.

CLANG, CLANG, CLANG WENT THE TROLLEY

When I was growing up, most boys wanted to be policemen, firemen, sports stars or the president of the United States. I wanted to be a motorman on a trolley. When I rode the streetcar, I would stand behind the motorman's station at the front of the car and watch as he manipulated the controls that made the car stop and go.

Now, eons later, my wish to become a motorman has come true. I passed the test at the Seashore Trolley Museum in Kennebunkport, Maine. I took old Car No. 22 on a two-mile run and now have my motorman's certificate duly signed by my instructor, a retired physicist



george plagenz

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named John Middleton.

I have always had respect for the working man. To me, there is something noble about a workman plying his trade.

I have been a laboring man myself. I once worked for the state highway department cleaning the streets. I belong to the Newspaper Guild. Before Heywood Broun founded the guild, newspaper people worked for a pittance. Thanks to the guild, they are now assured a re-

spectable wage.

I have been a member of the American Federation of Television and Radio Artists, an organization that is willing to take to the picket lines to get a square deal for creative people.

I wonder whether this is why the media are often accused of being liberal. We who had to start from the bottom and work hard to get where we are tend to stick up for those who want their small share of the scandalous overabundance of the Bill Gateses of the world. For this we are called bleeding-heart liberals.

THE TABLE GRACE GOES PUBLIC

One effect of the "family values" craze is that more families are saying grace at meals — even in restaurants. Recently, I was sitting next to a family at an outdoor restaurant in Maine. When their meal came, they interrupted their conversation, bowed their heads, and prayed aloud.

It reminded me of something I saw in a restaurant in Cleveland, Ohio. The businessman sitting next to me had his fork poised to start eating when he heard a little girl, sitting with her family, start to pray.

He put his fork down and waited until she was finished. The owner of the restaurant was so moved by this incident that he put "grace cards" at every table.

Our favorite grace at our house was composed by Geo Beach, a broadcaster for National Public Radio in Alaska:

Let's thank the farmer who grew it from the ground,

Thanks to the truckers who hauled it into town,

Thanks to the cooks who made us this great feed,

And thank you, God, for giving us the seed.

National Baptists recovering and moving on two years after scandal

By Ashley H. Grant

Associated Press Writer
MINNEAPOLIS — As any spiritual adviser will tell you, the road to redemption is long.

And so it's been for the National Baptist Convention USA, Inc., the nation's largest black denomination, struggling to heal wounds inflicted by its former president.

In 1999, the Rev. Henry Lyons was convicted of swindling more than \$4 million to fund a lavish lifestyle that included a mistress, jewelry and Florida waterfront property. He also stole \$250,000 that had been donated to rebuild burned black churches in the South.

"The Convention had been sorely wounded by the widespread allegations of improprieties and irregularities con-

nected with its leadership and operations," current president William J. Shaw wrote in his annual report. The document was distributed at the denomination's annual meeting that ended Sept. 7 in Minneapolis.

Shaw was elected president of the Nashville-based denomination in 1999 and has worked to restore confidence in the organization.

His campaign motto was VISA, for Vision, Integrity, Structure and Accountability.

Those who know him say the position is fitting for a man who created a centralized accounting and budgeting system when he was president of the Pennsylvania convention from 1978 to '84.

The national convention needed a fiscal watchdog and honest leader, and

many members and experts believe Shaw meets those requirements.

"We've had some problems, but we're Christian people," said Andre Grier, a 44-year-old pastor from Lithonia, Ga. "We're so excited about Dr. Shaw."

The 67-year-old Philadelphia preacher is donating his annual \$100,000 salary for each of the next five years to several colleges as special endowments. He said he also conducted a rigorous review of the convention's financial records.

"We've attempted to reshape how we handle our finances — we haven't finished, but we're still working on it," Shaw told thousands of members during his address at the meeting.

He set up a common registration point at meetings, eliminating the prac-

tice of collecting money at scattered sites, something that he said left funds ripe for mischief.

"There was some people walking around with the money in their pockets. Their were some people carrying it to their hotel rooms, some carrying it back home and some depositing it," he said.

The convention also has significantly cut its debt.

In the last two years, administrators at the church's World Center headquarters said they have cut the debt from \$2.8 million to about \$900,000. The American Baptist College reported raising more money in the last year than ever before.

At Thursday's meeting, between singing and clapping, church members from across the country donated tens of

thousands dollars to rebuilding the church.

Anthony Pinn, a religious studies professor at Macalester College in St. Paul, said the National Baptists seem to be bouncing back from the Lyons scandal.

"There hasn't been a tremendous fall away in terms of membership," he said. "One thing that has helped the national convention is that Shaw has been willing to acknowledge the struggles rather than suggest conspiracy theories."

It also helps that local congregations retain significant authority, said Pinn, an expert on black religion.

The National Baptist organization was founded by ex-slaves and has roots dating back to 1880. During Lyons' tenure, the denomination claimed as many as 8.5 million members, although some

say the actual figure is far lower. The convention has hired a statistician to determine by January how many churches and members belong to the denomination.

Shaw believes more than 5 million people consider themselves National Baptists, but he has no way of knowing for sure. He will be working to draw new members.

Melvin Bishop, a pastor from Birmingham, Ala., who has attended conventions for 28 years, said the national convention's most daunting immediate challenge will be to reach this "dot-com generation."

In the meantime, he said, the church is still healing from Lyons' actions.

"Progress is being made," he said. "Just as any wound — if it's not unto death — it will get better."



First United Methodist Church

Bible Baptist Church
Pastor: Don Crutcher
Fifth & Broadway
899-7368
Sunday: Sunday School: 9 am
Worship Service: 10 am
Evening Service: 6:30 pm
Wednesday: Evening Bible Study: 7 pm

Calvary Gospel Church
Pastor: Rev. Steve Rains
Fourth & College • 899-3605
Sunday: Sunday School: 9:15 am
Morning Worship: 10:30 am
Evening Worship: 6:30 pm
Wednesday: Family Night: 7 pm
Adult Bible Study and Youth Group
Saturday: Prayer Meeting: 5-7 pm
If you would like to receive a free newsletter, please call the church office.

Church of Christ
401 Caldwell
899-6185
Sunday: Bible Study: 9:45 am
Worship Service: 10:45 am
Evening Service: 6 pm
Wednesday: Bible Study: 7 pm

Church of the Nazarene
Pastor: Matthew Delp
Third & Caldwell
899-2080 or 899-3797
Sunday: Sunday School: 9:45 am
Worship Service: 10:50 am
Evening Service: 6 pm
Wednesday: Evening Service: 7 pm

First Baptist Church
Pastor: Bud Chester
Fifth & Center • 899-3450
Sunday: Sunday School: 9:15 am
Morning Worship: 10:30 am
Evening Worship: 6:30 pm
Tuesday: Mens' Prayer Group: 6:00 am
Thursday: Night Bible Study: 7:00 pm

Seventh Day Adventist Church
1160 Cattletrail
Pastor: Arlin Cochran • 785-332-2888
Saturday: Sabbath School: 9:30 am
Worship Service: 11 am

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
Pastor: Loren Strait
Eighth & Arcade • 899-5233
Sunday: Worship Service: 9 am
Activities: Junior High & High School Youth Groups, Adult Bible Study, Choir, Men's and Women's Groups, Devotions Study, Monthly Fellowship
Special Notice: Handicap Accessible, Hearing Assistance Equipment and Infant and Toddler Nurseries Available

First United Methodist Church
1116 Sherman
899-3631
Pastor: Rev. Carol Moore-Ramey
Sunday: Sunday School: 9:15 am
Worship Service: 10:30 am

Sonrise Christian Church
Ninth & Caldwell • 899-5398
Minister: Tony Kafka
Youth Minister: Doug Bean
Sunday: Worship Service: 9:30 am
Sunday School: 10:45 am
Wednesday: Junior/Senior High Meeting: 7 pm
Adult & Children's Classes: 7 pm

Emmanuel Lutheran Church
13th & Sherman • 899-6161
Pastor: Scott Grimshaw
Sunday: Sunday School: 8:45 am
Worship Service: 10 am
Wednesday: Confirmation: 6 pm

Kanorado United Methodist Church
Pastor: Leonard Cox
399-2468
Sunday: Sunday School: 9 am
Worship Service: 10:15 am

Goodland Bible Church
109 Willow Road • 899-6400
Pastor:
Sunday: Sunday School: 9:45 am
Morning Worship: 11 am
Evening Worship: 6 pm
Wednesday: Call for location

Grace Fellowship Church
104 E. Hwy 24 • 899-6423
Pastor: Bob Snyder • Residence: 899-0134
Sunday: Sunday School: 10 am
Worship Service: 11 am

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
13th & Center
899-2115 or Rectory 899-2114
Priest: Father Charles Schneider
Deacon: Gretchen Talitha
Adult Forum: Sunday: 8:30 am
Morning Prayer: 9:30 am 1st & 5th Sundays
Holy Eucharist: 2nd, 3rd, & 4th Sundays: 9:30
Sr. Warden for emergencies during the week 899-2067

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints
1200 15th Street • Burlington, CO • (970) 664-2470
Sacrament Meeting: 9:30 am
Sunday School: 10:45 am
Priesthood/Relief Society: 11:30 am

Word of Life Foursquare Church
223 E. 10th
899-5250
Pastor: John Coumerilh
Sunday: Worship Celebration & Kids' Church: 10:30 am

United Methodist Church Brewster:
Pastor:
Worship Service: 10:45 am CST
Sunday School: 9:45 am CST
Winona:
Minister: Rev. Bob Winters
Worship Service: 9 am CST
Sunday School: 10:15 am CST

Iglesia Del Dios Vivo
La Luz Del Mundo
Spanish Speaking Church
Minister: Esteban Ortiz B.
1601 Texas • 899-5275
Daily Prayer: Sunday thru Saturday: 5 am & 6 pm
Sunday: Sunday School: 10 am

Our Lady of Perpetual Help
Pastor: Father Daryl Olmstead
307 W. 13th • 899-7205
Sacrament of Reconciliation: 4:30-5 pm Saturday or by appointment
Mass Schedule:
Saturday: 6 pm
Sunday: 8 am and 9:30 am
Spanish Mass: 1st & 3rd Sunday: 2 pm

Pleasant Home Church
Serving the rural community for over 100 years
Rt. 1, Box 180 • 694-2807 • 3190 Road 70
Pastor: Jim Cress
899-5784
Sunday: Worship Service: 9 am
Sunday School: 10 am
Evening Service: 6 pm

The following sponsors urge YOU to attend your chosen House of Worship this Sabbath:

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Goodland Daily News 1205 Main		Short & Son Trucking Hwy. 24	