

OBSERVATIONS

FROM THE SIDELINES
BY Kathryn Hall Bogle

The Reverend Louis W. Osborne Jr. has accepted the invitation to be the new minister of the congregation of St. Andrews Community Church.

The bonding of minister and congregation came on December 6, the second Sunday in Advent on the Christian Calendar, the announcement being made by James Crolley, president of the congregation. The Rev. Osborne was greeted warmly after the formalities by his parishioners whom he has served as temporary pastor.

Installation ceremonies for the new minister will take place sometime in January. The church is located at Ainsworth Ave. and 30th Street.

A pre-holiday party for members and friends of the Semper Fidelis club was an event last week. The home of Mr. and Mrs. Archie Bonner was adorned with all the colorful promises of Christmas—bells and tinsel and lighted tree—to welcome a houseful of guests. Irresistible foods from a festive table, bridge in half of the party rooms and billiards in the other half kept everybody circulating to enjoy it all.

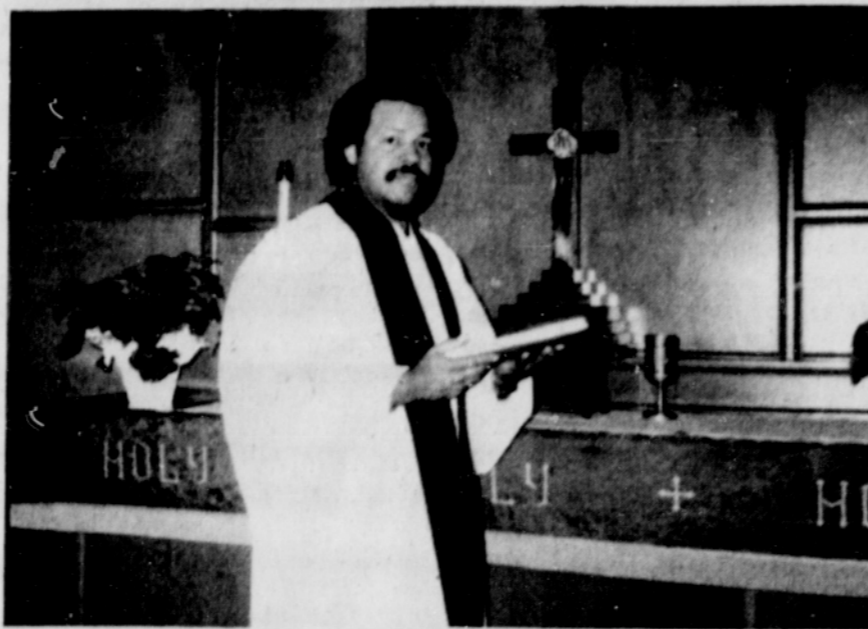
Members of Semper Fidelis include: Frances Johns, Juanita Robinson, Dorothy McDowell, Celestine Austin, Minnie Belle Johnson, Viola Bonner, Quindella Cage, Gustavia Bonner, Amelia Lanier, Ruby Waldon and Ernestine Wiseman, president.

With snow and ice in New York City where Carol Morrison lives and sunshine and balmy weather in Los



CAROL MORRISON

Angeles at the other end of her TWA airlines run, this Portland-born young woman is accustomed to variations in the weather. She has been a flight attendant for TWA for several years and took an unexpected opportunity to see her parents, Earl and Maggie Morrison before Christmas. It was raining, of course, in the old home town which cinched the welcome home for the professional traveler.



REV. LOUIS W. OSBORNE, JR.



Semper Fidelis party hostesses: Back row—Juanita Robinson, Frances Johns, Dorothy McDowell, Celestine Austin, Minnie Belle Johnson, Viola Bonner, Quindella Cage. Front row—Gustavia Bonner and Amelia Lanier. Not pictured: Ruby Waldon and Ernestine Wiseman.

Cell Talk

by Asmar Abdul Seifullah

Prison is a modern-day horror story but many of us have become so insensitive to our approach to life that we forget the less fortunate and the circumstances that create them. We take for granted our securities, thinking that nothing will interrupt our play. We feel safe knowing that someone else is administering justice, not caring for a moment whether that justice is just—only caring that someone else is taking care of it. We are told that the only safe way to protect society is to lock up the criminals. We never stop to think about what constitutes criminal. In Nazi Germany it was criminal to be a Jew and in many ways America has made the aspirations of the oppressed criminal. When we define criminal we must first understand that two classes exist in America, the "insiders" and "outsiders."

"Outsiders," are prisoners or people who haven't been successful competitors, and those who are readily visible as in some way "different." Human needs and drives are the same for all, however, and "outsiders" require the same physical, emotional and social satisfaction that "insiders" do. Since in our society the majority are considered (or at least consider themselves) "insiders," society is structured to at least minimally accommodate them, the needs of "outsiders" must be met with what's left.

It is the question of what's left that creates the prisoner and his pri-

son. Poverty, hunger, social starvation, political exclusion are the ingredients of "what's left" for countless Americans. It's all a matter of whether you want to expect the leftovers and whether you can survive on them. The people who for some reason decide that they want more than what's available but lack the means to obtain it and get caught become prisoners or "outsiders," not by choice but by condition. Your condition will dictate the options or alternatives to you at a given moment. It is therefore reasonable to say that criminals are the products of a society that hasn't made enough available for everybody.

As we proceed in our viewing of the prisoner the question of race becomes increasingly important. Blacks are confined at a rate eight and one half times as great as white. There are 350,000 prisoners in penal institutions across the country and a great number of them are Black. The question of slavery or neo-slavery is greatly enhanced when we consider the fact that prison has traditionally been used as a controlling device against people of color. I don't think that anyone would seriously argue the fact that there exist two brands of justice in America—one Black, the other White. When a system of discriminatory justice exists so as to systematically exclude and deprive whole groups of people of their constitutional and human rights, as exist in the American

Criminal Justice System—we then have a country that is quickly dissolving around everyone.

Sooner or later the people (Black people) who are most affected by racist criminal and civil justice will have to mount a movement. Our survival may depend on our ability to counteract white racism in the criminal justice system. We can't afford the luxury of saying the problem doesn't affect me—I'm not a criminal. Socially, politically, and economically there isn't a free Blackman in the country. We are all bound to one another whether we like it or not.

It's important that we understand that justice administered according to white norms and values isn't justice, it's racism!!! We must make white America realize that we will no longer tolerate its profiting off our social and economic suffering. We will not sit back and watch our children starve and become Junky Frankensteins and pay for the privilege. Hungry people find no crime in satisfying their hunger. The crime is in the greed of the few who deprive the many of sustenance.

The dispensation of wealth with a fair and just system of justice must become a priority for this country. The worth of a people is found in their ability to actuate their aspirations within a system of government. It is therefore vital for the Black community to become critically involved in the criminal justice system and its administration. Our dreams have been postponed for too

long and that postponement can be directly traced into the courts and prisons of America.

Program aids senior citizens

A benefit Christmas banquet will be held at 6 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 19, at Alpha and Omega Christian Church at 5023 N. Michigan Ave. to raise funds for the church's "Golden Eagles" program for senior citizens.

The Rev. Leonard Jessie started the program in September to aid those on fixed incomes by providing food and clothing.

"It's not a handout," Jessie explained. "It's an ongoing supplement for seniors only."

He has patterned the program after one in California called "Brown Bag" in which seniors get together and make up grocery bags for other seniors.

Already donated are more than 1,000 pounds of chicken and hundreds of pounds of vegetables, Jessie said. Another volunteer has donated cold storage space for the food.

Jessie is seeking donations of food, clothing, money and of services, such as providing transportation to deliver food.

He has gained his lists of senior citizens from social agencies. The public is invited to the benefit dinner, which is \$4.50 for adults and \$2 for children.

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Of all the states east of the Mississippi River, which was the last one admitted to the Union? Answer: West Virginia.

Although Chicago is called the "Windy City," there are many other cities in America that have greater average annual wind.

Women served as governor of U.S. states as far back as 1925 when Nellie Ross became governor of Wyoming, and Miriam Ferguson was governor of Texas.

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From the Front Door


by Tom Boothe

From the Front Door, I wish to thank all of my readers; those who have appreciated my philosophical aspirations; those who have phoned, written and spoke with me in person to inspire and encourage me over the past year. A special thanks, to those who have faithfully attended the Tuesday night Forums, making it one of our community's most successful gatherings.

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