



RELIGION

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Religion Editor, Portland Observer
P.O. Box 3137
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A.M.E. women meet

by Kathryn Hall Bogle

Preceding the Puget Sound Annual Conference by two days, the Puget Sound Women's Missionary Society convened its own annual conference on Monday, August 6th at Bethel A.M.E. Church. Gertha Smith of Seattle was convener, assisted by Marian Watley, wife of the Rev. M.A. Watley, pastor of Bethel and by Helen Taylor, president of Bethel's Missionary Society. Mrs. Henry Murph is missionary supervisor for the district.



Perlene White, general co-chair, planning Committee A.M.E. Church conference.

At opening time on Monday, about 100 women had registered with more expected to register on Tuesday. Taking care of registrations were Tina Pitts, Emma Williams and Sandi Bridges. June Terry and Lenora Morris were helpful to those who wanted lodging in

private homes. The morning was spent principally in the worship experience, devotions, and music by the Missionary Chorus of some 20 voices under the direction of Bethel's Minister of Music, Rochelle McElroy. Nealy Hunt conducted a devotional styled as a spiritual.

According to Perlene White, general chair of the Puget Sound Conference planning committee, workshops were an important part of the missionaries' first day. Jane Shepherd, district chair of Churchwomen United, addressed the group discussing "Building for Peace." Jeanne Hartzog spoke on the problems confronting "Single Mothers". "Money Management" was outlined by Woodrow Willson and Cedrick White, financial counselors. Michael Taylor, a professor of art at Lewis and Clark College, gave a slide presentation of African Art and brought numerous pieces from his collection of carved wood items, bowls, chairs, head rests and examples of beadwork from areas of Africa where he and his wife Stephanie have lived. The Puget Sound Women's Missionary Society has contributed funds for several years to church work in Central Africa. Among several former ministers of Bethel who were early arrivals on Monday, were the Rev. Ellis Casson and the Rev. L. Fisher Henis from California, and the Rev. Leslie White from Wichita, Kansas. Spencer Barrett, 26 years old, a former Portlander, a graduate of Jackson High School and the University of Portland, who recently completed seminary courses, arrived from Atlanta. He received his Master of Divinity degree in May and is hoping to receive an assignment from this church conference.



(l-r) Minnie Bell Johnson, Alice Robinson, Gertha Smith, Missionary Conference branch president and Perlene White. (Photo: Richard J. Brown)

Puget Sound Conference

by Kathryn Hall Bogle

A tentative forecast for the 93rd session of the Puget Sound Annual Conference of the African Methodist Episcopal Church sets Wednesday, August 8th, as official opening day for the conference being held at Bethel A.M.E. Church on N.E. 8th Avenue.

Bishop Henry W. Murph, is expected to make a welcoming address to delegates and friends at a pre-conference banquet held at the Red Lion Motor Inn at Jantzen Beach on Tuesday evening.

Business sessions follow devotional hours at each of the following five days of the conference. Evenings have been marked for Community Involvement on Wednesday, Missionary Night will be on Thursday and Youth Night is on Friday. A picnic and barbecue expecting to draw families will be a



Presiding Bishop Henry W. Murph. (Photo: Richard J. Brown)

Saturday event.

Sunday, August 12, will be the closing of the 1984 sessions. On this day reports and resolutions of the conference will be read following the morning worship service. The reading of the "Appointments", an exciting part of each closing conference will be the dramatic close of this conference as well.

Alaska Pacific Conference

by Nathaniel Scott

"Seeking and understanding the Kingdom of God through Bible study," is the general theme of the Alaska Pacific Annual Conference, held at Allen Temple Christian Methodist Episcopal Church, 4236 N.E. 8th Avenue and Skidmore Street, August 7th through the 12th. Rev. Elonza J. Edwards is the pastor. Rev. Ira D. Mumford, pastor of Smith Chapel Christian Methodist Episcopal Church, 8920 N. Woolsey Street in Columbia Villa, is co-hosting the conference with Rev. Edwards.

The Alaska Pacific Conference, comprised of 10 churches with approximately 1200 members in Oregon, Washington and Alaska, comes under the direction of the Ninth Episcopal District, which encompasses Oklahoma, Arizona, New Mexico, Oregon, Washington, Alaska and California, Rev. Edwards said.

The presiding Bishop for the Ninth Episcopal District is the Rt. Rev. Nathaniel L. Linsey, of Los Angeles, California, Rev. Edwards added. Bishop Linsey arrived in Portland Monday, August 6th and held Holy Communion Service Tuesday night, August 7th.

The last CME Conference to be held in Portland was in 1981, Rev. Edwards said. "The annual conference is set up to receive the pastoral reports and also, to confer pastorship for the next year." CME pastors have to have their pastorship conferred on a yearly basis. Which, usually, but not necessarily always, means being reapointed to the same church. I accepted the call to preach in 1949, but I have been a pastor for 25 years." Rev. Edwards' pastorship began in California, but for the past nine years, he has been assigned to the Alaska Pacific Conference. Seven of those years were in Seattle, Washington, and the past two have been in Portland.

While the conference is in session, daily worship services will be at noon and again at 7:30 p.m., evenings. Rev. Edwards added that the public is invited to attend the worship services and any and all of the business sessions, too.

Co-host, Rev. Mumford, aside from pastoring Smith Chapel for the past five years, also hosts the popular "Gospel Train" radio broadcast, each Sunday morning on radio station KAAR, AM, 1480 on the dial. The gospel music program runs from 8:30 to 9 a.m.



Tina Pitts and Emma Williams (both seated) help Margaret Harding, Seattle, Washington, and Alberta Polk, Portland, register for the 93rd Puget Sound Annual Conference. (Photo: Richard J. Brown)

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Sunday: Sunday School 9:15 a.m.
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Friday: "The Pastor Speaks" 7:30 p.m.
Saturday: Morning Prayer 9:00 a.m.

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