



# RELIGION

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Audrey Sanders stands on the front steps of Portland's second Habitat for Humanity house near 14th Place and N.E. Wygant. (Photo: Kris Altucher)

## Program helps poor buy homes

by Robert Lothian

High interest rates and foreclosures are symptoms of an economic situation which is making it harder for Americans to own homes.

But there is one program in Northeast Portland which is making it easier for low-income families to buy a home.

The program is called Habitat for Humanity. Sponsored by an interdenominational group of churches, Habitat buys houses from owners willing to sell at a low price for a tax break. Habitat then sells the houses at cost with no interest to qualified low-income families.

The families are chosen through a rigorous process. They can move in with a one percent down payment, the equivalent of about one monthly payment. The only catch is that they are asked to help with clean-up and remodeling of the houses, and to help families who move into other Habitat houses.

"We try to improve the community as a whole," said Audrey Sanders, director of the Habitat selection committee in Portland. She sat on the steps of Portland's first Habitat house at the corner of Northeast 14th Place and Wygant. The first family to benefit from the Habitat program in Portland has lived in the house for a year, and a second family will move into Habitat's second house located next door in October. Between the two houses is a vacant lot where Sanders says Habitat will build another house within a year.

She looks forward to "a nice looking Habitat community with three houses on the block" within a year. "Even this house has built

more pride and respect just in this two-block area," she said about the first house.

Habitat encourages community. Families involved in the program live close together and help each other out. Church members in crews of up to 15, she said, form weekend work parties to help make the houses habitable. All labor is donated by the church members who between them provide all the skills necessary, said Sanders.

"It just creates a feeling of community and love," she said. The program practices what Sanders calls "the economics of Jesus" by charging no interest and making no profits. Habitat's slogan is, "A decent home in a decent community for all of God's people."

The program has 33 projects in neighborhoods throughout the U.S., said Sanders, and 13 overseas projects in Guatemala, Peru, Bolivia, Haiti, Zaire, Uganda, India and Nicaragua. In all, over 1,000 families have houses made available to them through Habitat for Humanity, she said. More houses and help are always welcome, she added.

Sanders sits on the international board of directors of Habitat, with headquarters in Americus, Georgia, along with Jimmy Carter, whom she has met, and Andrew Young. Besides her volunteer work with Habitat, Sanders is director of the Northeast Emergency Food Program of Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon.

Local churches involved in Habitat include Mallory Ave. Disciple of Christ, Patton Central United Methodist, Woodlawn United Methodist and Westminster Presbyterian.

## Christian unity theme of meeting

The Eastside Church of Christ will sponsor a meeting, August 24th through 26th, with Cecil May, Jr., of Kosciusko, Mississippi.

Christian Unity is the meeting's theme. It will begin Friday, August 24th at 7 p.m., with May's sermon "Christians Only: The Undenominational Nature of the Church." His Saturday address, also at 7 p.m., will be "Why Those Who Plead for Unity So Often Divide." Sunday morning, May will teach adult Bible classes at 9:30 and preach for the congregation's 10:45 service. His class topic will be "Compromise: Vice or Virtue?" and his sermon, "The Body is One: Congregational Unity."

The Eastside meeting will conclude Sunday afternoon with fellowship at Blue Lake Park for all Churches of Christ in the Portland-Vancouver area. Following lunch, singing and a recreation period, May will speak to the expected 2,000 Christians on the theme, "The Basis

for Unity: The Mind of Christ."

The meeting will be something of a homecoming for May, who is now president of Magnolia Bible College. He preached for the Eastside congregation during 1967-69.

From 1954-76, May preached for Churches of Christ in Mississippi, with the exception of his two years in Portland. While living here, he also taught Bible at Columbia Christian College. From 1977-80, he was dean of the International Bible College in Florence, Alabama.

He has also been active in the Boy Scouts of America, serving as the district executive of the Yocona Council Area in Oxford, Mississippi, in the American Cancer Society, and in Kiwanis.

May is a magna cum laude graduate of Harding University in Searcy, Arkansas, and was included in *Who's Who Among Students in American Colleges and Universities* while a Harding student.

## Churches set up free phone

A "neighborhood telephone" will soon provide communication service to low-income residents of Northeast Portland. Persons with no in-home telephone service will use the Alberta Community Telephone for placing out-going local calls to social services, schools, doctors, and prospective employers. A receptionist will also answer in-coming calls, taking phone messages for neighbors who cannot afford residential service.

The Alberta Community Telephone is located at Mallory Avenue Christian Church, 126 N.E. Alberta. It will operate at no cost to its users and without receiving government funds. The project is sponsored by Northeast YWCA and the Ecumenical Parish of North and Northeast Portland. The project is endorsed by the Northeast Coalition of Neighborhoods.

Alberta Community Telephone will operate Monday through Thursday, from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Service began on Monday, August 20th.

A Northeast YWCA receptionist will provide half of the staffing and additional staffing will come from clerical interns enrolled at Portland Opportunities Industrialization Center. Vocational training will thus be an added feature of the community telephone.

The sponsoring organizations both maintain offices at Mallory Avenue Christian Church, 126 N.E. Alberta. The Ecumenical Parish of North and Northeast Portland is an interdenominational neighborhood coalition, supported by the Presbytery of the Cascades, Woodlawn and Patton Central United Methodist Churches, and Mallory Avenue Christian Church.



Rev. Mrs. Carrie Watkins and Rev. Eugeno Watkins

## Zion appoints new pastor

During the 92nd Annual Session of the Oregon-Washington Annual Conference of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church held at First A.M.E. Zion Church, 109 N. Skidmore, Portland, the Rev. Eugeno Watkins was appointed pastor by Bishop Herman L. Anderson, Presiding Prelate of the 11th Episcopal District of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church.

A native of Flint Michigan, Pastor Watkins received his former education in the public school system in Flint Michigan. He received his B.Th and B.R.E. from Simmons Theological Seminary, Louisville, Kentucky. A recent graduate of California State University, Dominguez Hills with a M.A. in Human Services. He is also a professional nurse.

Rev. Mrs. Carrie M. Watkins is a native of Montgomery, Alabama. She received her education in the public school system of Mont-

gomery. Rev. Mrs. Watkins is a professional seamstress, specializing in custom drapery and women's clothing. The Watkins have four children and eight grandchildren.

Pastor Watkins was ordained Dec. 31, 1958, in Flint Michigan. He was ordained Elder, July 13, 1975, under the late Bishop George J. Leake. Rev. Mrs. Watkins was ordained Deaconate July 20, 1981, under Bishop Herman L. Anderson. The Watkins have served the following parishes: Clinton Chapel, Modesto, California, Steward Chapel, Redwood City, California, First A.M.E. Zion Church, San Jose, California, and Martin Temple A.M.E. Zion Church of Compton, California, before coming to First A.M.E. Zion Church in Portland.

The public is invited to an Official Welcome Reception on Sunday, August 26th, at 3:00 p.m., at the First A.M.E. Zion Church, 109 N. Skidmore, Portland.

## Janice Lorraine weds Livingston

Mr. and Mrs. Burnett Austin, Sr., recently attended the wedding of their daughter, Janice Lorraine, to John C. Livingston, of New York City.

The wedding and reception took place on August 4th, at the Union Congregational Church in Manhattan, New York.

Maid of honor was Veronica Mapp of Washington, D.C. Best Man was Curtis Dixon. Ushers were Burnett Austin, Jr., and Derrick and Andrea Livingston.

White and soft pink gladiolas adorned the altar.

Janice attended Grant High School, here in the city, and was a les femme debutante. She graduated from Linfield College at McMinnville, Oregon, in 1970. She later received her masters degree in education from Columbia University in New York.

The couple left for a 2-week honeymoon in Antigua, West Indies.

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Sunday: Sunday School 9:15 a.m.  
Morning Worship 11:15 a.m.  
U.P.W.W. 6:30 p.m.  
Evangelistic Worship 8:00 p.m.  
Tuesday-Friday: Noon Day Prayer  
Friday: "The Pastor Speaks" 7:30 p.m.  
Saturday: Morning Prayer 9:00 a.m.

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