

During the early years, several ministers were called to the church during the period from 1921 through 1930. In 1930, the church was moved from its original location to its present site on the corner of McGee Avenue and Stuart Streets in Berkeley. During the Great Depression, the Mt. Pleasant Church building was destroyed by fire and was rebuilt under the direction of Pastor C. Brown. In 1935, Reverend James Dee Wilson accepted the pastorate of Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church. Through his leadership and ministry, Mt. Pleasant became a moving force in the life of Berkeley. In 1944, the name of the church was changed from Mt. Pleasant to McGee Avenue Baptist and incorporated during the same year.

Reverend Wadie H. Sybert, serving in the capacity of Assistant Pastor, accepted the call as pastor of the Church in 1950. He was a man of versatility and was an accomplished pastor as well as an educator. The mortgage of the Church was burned under his leadership and Rev. Sybert retired in 1971. Reverend James H. Stewart accepted the pastorate in October 1971. He took the reins of leadership with enthusiasm and expanded the church programs to great proportions. He upgraded the existing facilities and acquired additional properties.

During the late 70's and early 80's the church expanded its mission to feed the indigent and unemployed. Two hundred to three hundred persons are provided hot meals three days a week. After 21 years as pastor, Rev. Stewart retired in June, 1992. On February 21, 1993, Rev. D. Mark Wilson was installed as pastor of McGee Avenue Baptist Church. Within a 6-year period, Rev. Wilson has led the Church to new heights. McGee Avenue Baptists Church became a strong and well-represented Church in the American Baptist Churches USA and as a member of the Progressive National Baptist Convention.

Under Pastor Wilson's administration, the thousand members historic black Baptist Church has strengthened spiritual witness and fellowship with the congregation and in the local community. The Church has received funding from the City of Berkeley to expand its social justice ministries. It continues in collaborative efforts with local community-based organizations in establishing outstanding programs for youth and adults: HIV and Aids Education, Computer Literacy, Educational Aid and Bible Study.

Pastor Wilson is well known throughout the country as a dynamic preacher, musician and social justice activist. He has served on numerous boards and organizations as past Chair of the Political Action and Human Rights Committee of the Progressive Baptist State Convention and a former Northern California Regional Convenor of the American Baptist Black Caucus.

In 1996, the Church created the McGee Avenue Baptist Church Community Development Corporation for senior housing and facilities for the Church outreach program. Pastor Wilson, with the congregation, defined the motto and mission statement of the Church. On September 8, 1997, construction began on the McGee Avenue Baptist Church Kitchen Remodeling and its completion assured the continuation of its food project. McGee Baptist Church established a fully equipped Community Computer Center, instituted Home Bible Studies and has licensed and ordained a growing number of ministers of the gospel.

I join in joyous celebration with Pastor Wilson, the McGee Avenue Baptist Church members and its friends and look forward to continued growth, worship, grace and service to God and the people.

A SALUTE TO FATHER AUSTIN R.
COOPER, SR.

HON. LOUIS STOKES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 23, 1998

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise today to pay tribute to Father Austin R. Cooper, Sr. Later this month, Father Cooper, who serves as a rector at Saint Andrew's Episcopal Church, will retire after 38 years of ministry and service to the church and community. As Father Cooper prepares to depart, the St. Andrew's Church family is hosting a series of special events to commemorate Father Cooper's extraordinary and distinguished career. I join St. Andrew's and the greater Cleveland community in saluting Father Cooper on this occasion. I want to share with my colleagues and the nation some information regarding this outstanding individual.

Austin Rellins Cooper, Sr., is the son of the late Benjamin and Louise Cooper. His parents were two very devout Anglicans from the Bahama Islands who came to America as teenagers. Father Cooper graduated from St. Augustine's College in Raleigh, North Carolina, receiving a Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology. He received his Master of Divinity degree from Seabury-Western Theological Seminary in Evanston, Illinois.

Mr. Speaker, on September 15, 1970, Father Cooper was installed as rector at Saint Andrew's Episcopal Church. Before coming to Cleveland as a pastor, Father Cooper held other positions in the Episcopal Church including assignments which found him in Florida, New York and Texas. Father Cooper is greatly admired by his parishioners for his spiritual guidance, management of the church and leadership of the congregation. In fact, every place that Father Cooper has served has been touched by his determination and commitment.

When Father Cooper was installed as rector of St. Andrew's Church, the parish was suffering financially. Undaunted, Father Cooper wrote "A Master Plan for St. Andrew's Parish." The plan included parish renewal, neighborhood outreach, property acquisition and economic development. Under Father Cooper's leadership, an endangered church became a financially sound institution that bought its mortgage ahead of time.

With Father Cooper at the helm, Saint Andrew's Church has also been a beacon of light in the Cleveland community. The church has placed a strong emphasis on education, providing mentoring and tutoring programs for the youth of our community. As a testament to his efforts, I am proud to note that Father Cooper has served longer than any other priest in the history of St. Andrew's.

In addition to his work at Saint Andrew's, Father Cooper is a member of the Standing Committee of the Diocese of Ohio and he is listed in Who's Who Among Black Americans and Notable Americans. Additionally, he is the cofounder and past president of the Union of Black Episcopalians, and the past president

and a life member of the NAACP, having received that organization's "Black Church Religious Leadership Award" and its "Distinguished Service Award."

Mr. Speaker, as he prepares to depart St. Andrew's, Father Austin Cooper, Sr., will be remembered as a strong leader whose selfless devotion is unmatched. I have been privileged to share a special friendship with Father Cooper and members of his family. He is someone whom I respect and admire. He is also a confidant whose wisdom and guidance has meant a great deal to me. I extend my best wishes to Father Cooper, his devoted wife of 37 years, Patty, and the Cooper children; Austin Rellins II, Angela and Patricia. I join the St. Andrew's Church family in wishing him Godspeed in the years to come.

DOLLARS TO THE CLASSROOM
ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 18, 1998

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3248) to provide Dollars to the Classroom.

Mr. ADAM SMITH of Washington. Mr. Chairman, I would like to take this opportunity to explain my support for the Dollars to the Classroom Act. As a strong supporter of local control of the public education system in our country, I believe a top priority of Congress should be to assure Federal funds for education go to the local level where members of our community can determine the best use of these funds. In light of this view, I support the concepts encompassed in this legislation of block granting select education programs and assuring 95 percent of Federal funds go to the local level. I will vote for this bill because I see it as a step in the right direction.

The underlying question we must ask in this debate is "Do we believe in local control?" If we say that our local teachers, administrators, and parents should have control over the education of students, we must carry through with that ideal and hand over the decision making authority for education dollars to these individuals. I fundamentally believe in local control because the people in my community who dedicate their lives to educating children know better than Members of Congress how funds could best serve our students.

In addition, when I visit schools in my district, teachers and administrators tell me they need more funds for education and fewer regulatory requirements from the Federal Government. This legislation begins to focus on the problem of Federal Government regulations and takes step to eliminate the requirements for funding with which teachers and administrators must comply. For example, I strongly support the expansion of the ED-FLEX program to all 50 States included in this bill. This program provides the regulatory flexibility that the schools in my area are asking for and I am an advocate of expansion.

I share the concerns of my Democratic colleagues that historically block grants lead to cuts in funding over time. I plan to be vigilant in assuring that the Federal Government continues to provide adequate education funding.

As always, this battle will be fought in the appropriations process, and I plan to be a leader in assuring education funds are not cut. Supporters of education must continue to work within the constraints of the budget to assure education is made a top priority.

While I feel this bill is a small step in the right direction, there is still much work to be done to improve our public school system. I will support this bill but I feel very strongly that we cannot let the changes incorporated in the legislation lead to cuts in education funding.

SALUTING SESQUICENTENNIAL
CELEBRATION FOR OUR LADY
OF VICTORY CHURCH ROCHESTER, NY

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 23, 1998

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay special tribute to the legacy of Our Lady of Victory Church in Rochester, New York. The parish will celebrate its 150th year of ministry during a special Jubilee Celebration on Sunday, September 27, 1998.

Our Lady of Victory Church in Rochester was organized in 1848, after Bishop John Timon saw the need for his small congregation of French parishioners to have a church of their own. The church, which was established with approximately 300 parishioners, was known from that time until 1868 as St. Mary's French Catholic Church. Their building was located at the corner of Ely Street and Minerva Place in Rochester, New York.

Under the capable leadership of its pastors, the parish thrived and grew. New worship sites were erected over the years. Throngs of people attended daily Mass, Novenas, adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, and confession in the 1950's 1960's and 1970's.

Today, 150 years after its establishment, the parish at 210 Pleasant Street, Rochester, New York, enjoys its designation as a National Historic Landmark. There are 400 congregants and over 100 people attend their noon Mass each day. The parish, which is centrally located in the downtown area, also serves as a haven for many who have no home.

I am very proud of this long established and influential parish in my home district. Today, I ask that my colleagues pause with me to honor the legacy of one of America's thriving parishes: Our Lady of Victory Church in Rochester, New York. I am greatly honored to join many others in congratulating Our Lady of Victory for their service to humanity.

TRIBUTE TO ELIZA BRIGGS

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 23, 1998

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Ms. Eliza Briggs of Summerton, South Carolina, who died at the age of 81 on September 15 of heart failure. Ms. Briggs and her late husband Harry Briggs were among the principle petitioners in the lawsuit Briggs v. Elliott, which became the first of the five law-

suits which became collectively *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas*. Those cases began the process of desegregating our nation's public schools.

Eliza Briggs' place in history has been often overlooked. She and her husband signed the lawsuit in 1949 that challenged fairness of Clarendon County's segregated school system. For decades following the lawsuit, the Briggs family suffered through stress and unrest due to their decision. The Briggses were fired from their jobs and forced to move to Florida to be freed of the community backlash. Later in life the Briggses returned to Clarendon county, and over time have were accorded the respect they deserved for their self-sacrifice in order to make South Carolina better.

Ms. Briggs has been described by friends and family as a humble woman full of grace and charm. She was one of many unsung heroes during the Civil Rights Movement that should be celebrated and remembered for putting her country before herself. She was presented the Order of the Palmetto, the highest commendation a South Carolina citizen can receive.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me today in honoring Eliza Briggs for her great work as a Civil rights Movement trailblazer. Her hard work should be remembered and celebrated by this House. Ms. Eliza Briggs will be sorely missed.

IN MEMORY OF SYLVIA KLING

HON. PETER DEUTSCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 23, 1998

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Sylvia Kling. Sylvia passed away last Sunday and she will be greatly missed in the South Florida community.

After spending a large portion of her life in her native New York, Sylvia and her husband moved to Plantation, Florida, in 1973. This is where they both began their extraordinary work improving the lives of South Floridians.

For more than 15 years, Sylvia Kling volunteered at the Broward County Democratic Executive Committee's headquarters. Her devotion to the principles of the democratic process kept her very busy. Sylvia was continually active making fliers, working at phone banks, putting cards in doors, and standing at the polls with candidates of her choice. This dedication did not go unrecognized. Five years ago, she was honored by the county's Executive Committee as its volunteer of the year. In addition, Sylvia was elected as a delegate to the 1996 Democratic National Convention in Chicago.

Though the political arena was very important to Sylvia Kling, Sylvia's dedication to other causes was truly remarkable, as well. She worked to connect Jewish women with their roots in her association with Hadassah. Furthermore, Sylvia was interested in international matters as she was a member of both the Women's League of Israel and the Jewish War Veterans women's auxiliary. Sylvia was also a loving wife, mother, sister, grandmother, and aunt. Mr. Speaker, I can't think of anything more important than one's relationship with their family.

It is clear to all who knew her and knew of her that Sylvia Kling was an extraordinary woman whose tireless devotion to the residents of South Florida will be forever remembered. Her family will miss her, South Florida will miss her, and I will miss her.

A TRIBUTE TO ST. ADALBERT
CONGREGATION

HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 23, 1998

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to St. Adalbert Church in South Milwaukee, Wisconsin, on the occasion of the congregation's 100th anniversary. I join with the Rev. Herbert B. Schubert and his parishioners in celebrating this very special event.

The congregation was named in honor of St. Adalbert, a 10th Century patron saint of Bohemia and Poland. Its beginnings were rather humble, but with great determination and hard work, a small church was built in 1898, with a rectory built two years later. Rev. Ladislaus Mscisz was St. Adalbert's first pastor, and served until 1912.

By 1905, Franciscan Sisters of St. Francis replaced lay teachers, and the church and school were enlarged. Rev. Bernard Burant succeeded Rev. Mscisz, but remained only nine months, after which Rev. Clement Zych was appointed as the congregation's third pastor. Rev. Zych faithfully served St. Adalbert's for 24 years, and during that time the congregation continued to grow. By 1927, a new church, school and convent was built.

The years following the stock market crash of 1929 were difficult for St. Adalbert's, but the congregation was determined to survive. With the depression came some very trying times, with increasing debts. In 1937, Rev. Zych was transferred to St. Adalbert's in Milwaukee, and Rev. Ladislaus Bednarski became pastor. During Rev. Bednarski's tenure as pastor, the debt was refinanced, but problems remained.

Rev. Theodore Lepak became pastor in 1950 after Rev. Bednarski was transferred to Blessed Sacrament in Milwaukee, but he became ill shortly thereafter and passed away in 1951. Rev. Michael Staczak was appointed pastor in 1951, and served until his retirement in 1975. During that time, due to the generosity of the congregation, the mounting parish debt was retired, and a new addition was added to the school. Unfortunately, shortly after completion, a gas explosion destroyed most of the new building. In 1968, the building was rebuilt and dedicated.

In July of 1975, the present pastor, Rev. Herbert Schubert, was appointed by Archbishop William Cousins. Since then, St. Adalbert's has seen the addition of kindergarten and junior kindergarten classes, a new pipe organ, and a number of updates to the facilities.

St. Adalbert Congregation has been truly blessed in 100 years of service to the Lord and to the community. Congratulations to St. Adalbert's and all its members on this very special anniversary. May the congregation continue to grow and prosper as it begins its second century of service.