

B 12 1962

Vol. 2 No. 7

THE ILLUSTRATED NEWS

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OF MEDICAL
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TEACHER SUPPORTS FIGHT FOR BETTER SCHOOLS

WHAT'S WRONG WITH OUR SCHOOLS

A NORTHWESTERN TEACHER

In a December issue of the Illustrated News there appeared an article on the poor facilities for skaters at the Northwestern ice skating rink. The article told how hundreds of parents had called the city council to protest these conditions. But I wonder if these same people are aware of the equally poor facilities five hundred yards away at Northwestern High School. Do the parents know that their sons and daughters are also being "frozen out" at Northwestern? Do the parents realize that it's not recreational facilities that their children are being denied at Northwestern, but their constitutional rights to a first class education and an equal education?

The Northwestern students are being cheated because they are going to school on half day sessions and what they are receiving as "education" is grossly inadequate for today's automated world. Northwestern students are going to have to go out into life and compete with students from the suburbs and the rest of the state who go to school full time and get at least an adequate education if not a good education.

It used to be said that the white Southerner expected the Negro child to learn in half of a school year what it took a white student a whole school year to learn in the South. Now we see that the same type of discrimination has crept up North and that the same excuses, such as overcrowding, are used for peddling off an inferior education onto the Negro child. Labor leaders talk about the possibility of a 20 hour work week as the next goal of labor. Little do they know that their goal has already been reached by the Negro students attending Northwestern and other overcrowded schools in Detroit. The half day sessions, however, are only one example of our students being denied "equal justice under the law" as guaranteed in the constitution.

I wonder if these same interested adults know that Northwestern has all the symptoms of becoming a "Blackboard Jungle." I wonder if the parents know that a full time policeman is on duty during school hours at the school. I wonder if the parents know that two small fires were started in the girls' lavatories in the last

school year because some girls were smoking? Do the parents know that it is still easy for the girls to smoke in the lavatories and that many girls do still smoke in the lavatories? I wonder if the parents know that discipline is also so poor in the study halls that it is almost impossible for students to study in them. Do the parents know that the halls are so noisy that a teacher can't leave his door open at times because the noise will disturb his students? Are the parents aware of the fact that students and outsiders can usually wander around the halls as they please, without passes? When teachers apprehend these students and outsiders and take them to "the office" nothing happens. Many teachers have given up trying to request strange kids in the hall to do things such as explain who they are and why they don't have passes. Do the parents realize the danger this state of affairs poses to the students (and teachers) who are "law abiding citizens?"

Do parents know that there are hardly any extra-curricular activities going on at the school? There are no plays as in most high schools. There are very few active clubs for the vast majority of the students. The orchestra never plays at any of the athletic events and there is no marching band as in many "good high schools." In short, have the parents stopped to think about how many times they and their kids have been able to go to the school in the evening and enjoy something the kids have accomplished? There are exactly two concerts and one dance at the most at night during the school year. The teachers and students have repeatedly urged the administration to allow a variety of activities but the answer is always "no". So the students and their families -- and the teachers -- are not "allowed" to assume any of the responsibility for making these decisions about night time activities. There are a few activities during the late afternoon for the students but approximately half of the students cannot even think of going to an occasional dance as they have classes in the late after-

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NEGRO CHURCHES CAN NOT BE FORCED OUT OF MEDICAL CENTER

BY REV. ALBERT B. CLEAGE JR., CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

The dangers of Urban Removal are most apparent in the plight of the Negro Churches caught in the City Planners squeeze play. Each Church is being privately assured that everything is "going to be worked out" but no basic change in The Plan which calls for the total exclusion of Negro Churches from the area has been made officially. The "negtiations" by the Urban Renewal Churches are missing the crux of the problem. Friendship Baptist Church may be permitted to purchase a site "just across the street" from the Medical Center Area. If they "negotiate" long enough perhaps they can secure one more site "near the Medical Center."

This is an absurd situation! We have been maneuvered into the position of begging for our legal rights. Every Negro Church which owned land in the Medical Center Area is legally entitled to stay in the area! They are not only legally entitled to stay in the area, they are entitled to secure the amount of land required for the erection of a new building with adequate parking facilities at a reasonable price ... and a "reasonable price" does not mean \$40,000 per acre or anything like it.

Let us review the facts: The city permitted an area to deteriorate through the practice of racial discrimination in the enforcement of existing laws covering health, welfare, and safety. As a result of its discriminatory policies practiced over a period of years, the city found it necessary to undertake Urban Renewal. The Churches in the area ministered to the needs of the people there. They were neither "Blighted," blight producing," nor in any way responsible for the city policies which created a blighted area. They were, in fact, the one force which fought against the creeping blight which the city officially ignored!

When the city decided to renew its blighted area (for a non-public purpose) it permitted the condemnation of churches along with all other buildings (except hospitals and certain white churches!) -- although they were neither blighted nor blight producing. The city planners explain that this was necessary in order that the entire area could be properly "planned." (We note, however, that the hospitals and White Churches in the area were not condemned to make room for "better hospital and church planning.") Let us assume for the moment that the position of the city planners is reasonable ... It was

necessary to condemn the existing Negro Church structures in order that the planners could relocate the churches more advantageously. By what authority and with what reasoning, however, did the planners assume that they could therefore determine which churches could stay in the area and which churches must move from the area? If the right of any church to stay in the area is admitted, then the legal right of all to remain cannot be denied. By what constitutional authority does government undertake to decide how many churches, or of what denomination are necessary to serve any community. The responsibility of government in this situation is clear. Every Church which owned land in the area has a legal right to stay in the area if it wishes. For city-planners to undertake any other course of action is to deny our constitutional separation of church and state! The government can only be guided by the situation which existed before the condemnation proceedings began. Every church which owned land in the area must be given the same amount of land in the Medical Center. This land in the new Center must be given to the Churches at the same price they received for their land under condemnation proceedings. Their land was condemned only for the convenience of the city, and equity demands that they receive back that which was taken from them.

The entire Urban Renewal Program which is being used nationally to remove Negroes from the center-city was designed to rebuild blighted urban areas. It was generally assumed by the liberal framers of the legislation that the re-building was for the benefit of the disadvantaged occupants of the blighted areas. For this reason the municipality securing Federal Funds under the Urban Renewal Act is required to provide for the temporarily displaced residents of the blighted area. The Urban Renewal Act is in a sense a recognition of the fact that "blighted urban areas" are the result of a city's racial prejudice and discrimination and its failure to use its existing powers to protect urban areas inhabited by Negroes. It was intended that government funds be used to make amends to these victims of a city's racial discrimination. It was intended that these blighted areas be rebuilt for the use of the original occupants or "others similarly situated." It certainly was not in-

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FISHY BUSINESS AT THE MARINA

Now that the boating season is upon us, we take this opportunity to suggest to the Dept. of Recreation to take an interest and be sure that boat wells in the marina are allotted fairly and without discrimination. It might be a great step forward in democracy, if the waiting lists were made public with the date of each original application available. This would eliminate such factors as Negroes being told after 5 years of being on the waiting list that there is no record of their application. There is also a wide spread belief that a Negro can get a boat well 4 or 5 years quicker merely by letting a white friend make the application.

These are serious accusations and the over-all secrecy involved in the waiting list and assignment of wells not only fosters these beliefs but also fosters discrimination, by making it possible. One "sick" clerk can determine the entire city's attitude toward discrimination in the city's facilities.

So we whole heartedly say, being fair-minded is not enough, but be diligent enough to see that fairness is being practiced.


CLUB NOTES

The Vancouver Block Club 4400 to 4600 will meet at the home of Mrs. M.L. Jeter, Monday Feb. 12, at 7:30 P.M. All members please attend ...Important Business!

3200 to 3300 W. Euclid Block Club elected officers at their last meeting. Officers elected were: Re-elected President - Mr. Lucius Daniels, Vice President - Mr. Hill Recording Secretary - Mrs. Davis, Assistant Recording Secretary - Mrs. Evans, Treasurer - Mrs. Stubblefield Chaplain - Mrs. Morris.

Mr. and Mrs. Daniels became parents of a baby daughter since last meeting. Mother and daughter are doing fine. Mr. Lucius Daniels is a Board Member of T.U.L.C.

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SEE MAP 

tended that the Act be used to "clean Negroes out" of an area in order that the land could be sold and used for non-public purposes. The building of a low-income housing project available to all would be a legitimate use of the land. The building of luxury apartment hotels (available only to a limited segment of the population is not a legitimate use of the land. The selling of the land to private hospital corporations engaged in the sale of medical services on a racially segregated basis is not a legitimate use of the land. Under our Constitution the government does not have the right to take the land of citizens through condemnation proceedings unless the land is to be used for a public purpose. The government cannot take land from one citizen and sell it to another. The City of Detroit cannot buy the Center City through condemnation proceedings in order to move the Negro out, and use the land to attract white residents back from the suburbs, and increase the city's tax base. However attractive this may appear to the city planners, it is illegal and cannot be done. The city cannot use its powers of condemnation to take land from private citizens for resale to private hospital corporations, and certainly not for re-sale to hospital corporations practicing racial segregation and discrimination from top to bottom.

Next week we will continue our discussion of the Dangers of Urban Renewal!

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URBAN RENEWAL

Existing Hospitals

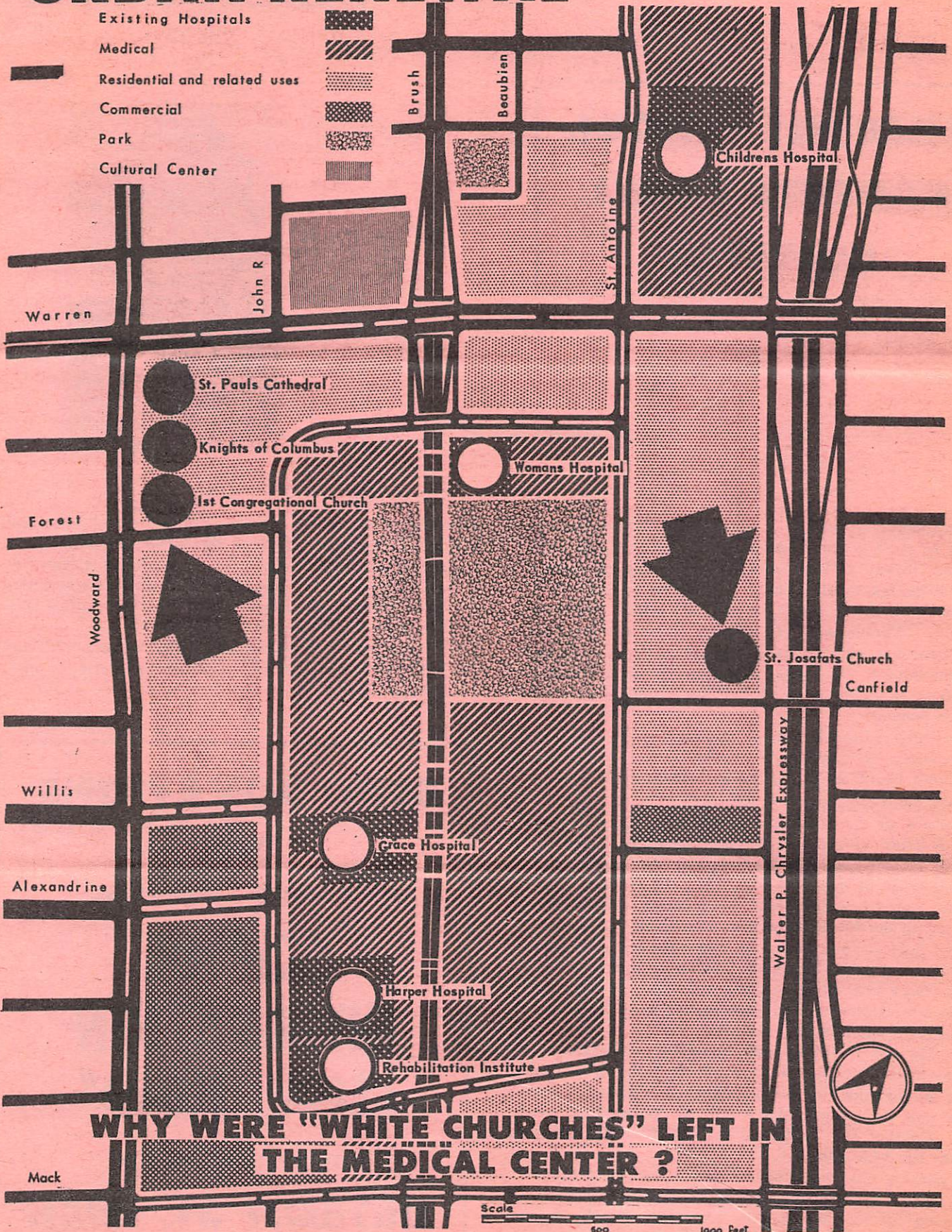
Medical

Residential and related uses

Commercial

Park

Cultural Center



WHY WERE "WHITE CHURCHES" LEFT IN THE MEDICAL CENTER ?

SHERRILL SCHOOL PARENTS COMM. BULLETIN

BY ROOSEVELT BROWN



GEORGE W. CROCKETT

The finance committee of the Sherrill School Parents held a meeting at the home of Mrs. Rachel Wills, 6416 Majestic Street. Plans were made to contact various groups of professionals to help in the school fight. They also agreed to reach out to as many organized groups as possible. People who had signed up at the previous Mass Meetings were to be contacted to help write and send out letters. Mrs. June Strong, our dynamic Finance Chairman, is doing a wonderful job of organizing our Finance Group.

Mrs. Thelma Gardner, who is chairman of the committee and Attorney George Crockett spoke of our fight against the school board on WCHB Sunday afternoon. They invited the public to join us in our fight.

Members of the committee heard Adam Clayton Powell, Chairman of the Labor and Education Department say that he was aware of our fight and was keeping himself informed of developments. He stated that it was in line with his stand that "segregation in Education must go, in the North as well as the South." He knows that the federal government has spent twenty-one million dollars in the South for higher education, and that not a single Negro was going to these schools. He also said that he was contemplating investigating schools that had not complied with the 1954 decision.

Mr. Roosevelt Brown was appointed chairman of a special committee to meet and advise with parents and parent groups regarding the organization of district committees and to interpret the scope of the pending legal suit. Contact Mr. Brown at TE 4-2437 or Mr. Lawyer Thomas WE 3-8820 for details.

A growing city wide support for the suit filed against the Board of Education has been received. Substantial donations are coming in from Churches, Block Clubs, Community Councils, etc. This week the following don-

ations were received: Joseph Tireman Association \$50 81-8200 Progressive Club of Mandalay Ave .25 New Light Baptist Church \$50. and J. J. Patton Drugs \$10.

Send Donations to ; Sherrill School Parents Committee "School Integration Legal Fund" Post Office Box 1353, Detroit 31, Michigan.

There will be a Mass meeting at Berea Lutheran Church 7047 Tireman Ave. Detroit, Michigan on Saturday Feb. 17, 1962, at 7:30 P.M.

SEND DONATIONS TO

SHERRILL SCHOOL PARENTS COMM.

"SCHOOL INTEGRATION LEGAL FUND"

POST OFFICE BOX NO. 1353

DETROIT 31, MICH

WHAT'S WRONG WITH OUR SCHOOLS ?

Cont. from Page 2

noon. The principal is always saying that "this is our place of business." But students are not little businessmen. They are students. They are human beings. They are growing kids who need a well rounded education. Why should they be denied the valuable educational and social experiences which are only possible through planning events for themselves and others (such as plays or dances) and then carrying the plans through? It is an insult to our students and their families and the Negro community when the doors of "our School" are unlocked "for us" only three nights out of the school year!

Could the parents possibly be aware of the fact that the basic supplies necessary for carrying on an effective educational program are almost nil in many instances? If a teacher wants to write something on a blackboard she had better carry her own chalk with her because chalk simply isn't in the room. What would the parents think if they knew that the students' desks and frequently the teachers' desks are about as old as the school is and even worse looking than the school? I wonder if the parents are aware of the fact that the library's book supply is so impoverished -- in spite of the 50 years that the school has supposedly been building up its book collection -- that many books are simply not available for the students to use?

I wonder if any of the parents know that there is no cafeteria for Northwestern's 3,000 students? Would any of the parents like to come and eat in the "snack bar" -- a long counter with a couple hundred stools located in what used to be called "the wind tunnel" (the passageway connecting Northwestern to McMichael Junior High School)? Would the parents enjoy eating a "hot lunch" which is never as hot as it should be because there is no steam table? What would a parent think as he stood in a long line with his kid to eat a lukewarm lunch in a short 20 minute "lunch-study" period? Would a parent like to find out that there were no napkins at all for a good two weeks just recently? Would the parent like to see his kid fed as an animal is fed and herded around all day as an animal is herded and given even less chance to learn than some animals are given?

Would the parents then realize that the principal is directly responsible for all of this? The principal has accepted the responsibility of "enrolling" 3,000 students in a building built for 1,500 students (at the most); but he has not carried out his responsibility to educate these students who are literally packed into the school as sardines are packed into a can. Many of Northwestern's teachers and counselors admit that the school has become an "attendance school." Graduating from an attendance school is easy. A student only has to be there for four years to graduate. If he sits long enough, he will eventually be "graduated" from the school just as sausage is ground out of a machine. By overcrowding the school

and then putting pressure on teachers to pass students (two vocational teachers were "called in" this last semester) the principal has chosen to contribute a "fine school" to the Negro community. Why has he done this? A "good principal" will do whatever his bosses downtown ask him to do. The more a principal cooperates, the sooner he will accumulate enough "gold stars" next to his name to move out of the "depressed Negro school" and into one of the lily-white schools (which will naturally be closer to his home as all of Detroit's high school principals are white.) This means he will continue to "jam in" Negro students. This means that he will keep cheating them every day in nearly every way. This means that he is guilty of criminal negligence, for a day lost in a kid's education is a day lost forever.

I wonder, I wonder, I wonder. I wonder what the parents would say if they knew all these things. And then I wonder: What would the parents do about it?

1961-62

Global Forum

* * *

**Symposium on
Negro Progress**

THE UNIONS

Horace Sheffield

Vice-Pres., TULC

POLITICAL ACTION

Coleman Young

Con-Con Delegate

THE CHURCHES

Rev. Albert B. Cleage Jr

Central Congregational Church

* * *

Friday Feb. 23 - 8 P M

QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION

FELLOWSHIP HALL, 7625 Linwood
(cor. Hogarth, 4 Blks. North of W. Gd. Blvd.)

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\$1**

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CHURCH DIRECTORY

Bethel A.M.E. Church
585 Frederick Street (Tr 2-3667)
Rev. J. Lawrence Roberts D.D.
Morning Service -- 11 A.M.

Hartford Ave. Baptist Church
6300 Hartford Avenue
Rev. Charles Hill, Minister
Morning Service -- 11A.M.

Second Baptist Church of Detroit
441 Monroe (WO 1-0920)
Dr. A.A. Banks Jr., Pastor
Morning Service -- 10:30 A.M.
Evening Service -- 6 P.M.

Central Congregational Church
7625 Linwood at Hogarth (Ty 8-0772)
Rev. Albert B. Cleage Jr., Minister
Morning Service -- 11A.M.

King Solomon Baptist Church
6125 14th Street (Ty 8-3700)
Rev. T.S. Boone, Minister
Services 11 A.M. - 8 P.M.

Second Grace Methodist Church
5301 Tireman Ave. Ty 8-7195
Rev. Alvin Burton
Morning Service -- 10:45 A.M.

Christian Methodist Episcopal Church
7411 Tireman
Rev. Homer Draper, Minister
services -- 11 A.M. & 5 P.M.

New Jerusalem Missionary Baptist Church
8641 Linwood
Rev. Chas. Glover, Minister
Morning Service -- 11:00 A.M.

St. Marks Community Church
9321 Twelfth Street (TO 8-8120)
Rev. Wadsworth, Minister
Morning Service -- 11A.M.

Christland Missionary Baptist Church
6580 W. Warren
Rev. C. L. Branch, Minister
Services -- 11 A.M. & 7:30 P.M.

People's Community Church
8601 Woodward Ave. (Tr 1-1676)
Rev. Carlyre Stewart, Minister
Morning Service -- 11 A.M.

St. Stephen A.M.E. Church
6000 Stanford Ave. Ty 5-4800
Rev. Martin Luther Simmons
Morning Service -- 11 A.M.

Dexter Ave. Baptist Church
13500 Dexter (TO 9-0710)
Rev. W. R. Haney, Minister
Services -- 8 A.M. & 10:45 A.M.

Plymouth Congregational Church
514 Garfield at Beaubien (TE 1-2460)
Rev. Nicholas Hood, Minister
Morning Service -- 11A.M.

Tabernacle Baptist Church
6125 Beechwood TY 4-8922
Services 8:00A.M. -- 10:45 A.M.

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