

RELIGION BRIEFS

Baptismal services will be at 1 p.m. Sunday at **ROBINSON TEMPLE CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST** on Berkley Avenue in Trinity Gardens. Deacons and deaconesses will be honored Sunday at **MACEDONIA BAPTIST CHURCH** on July Street during the 3 p.m. service.

A signed Mass for deaf and hearing-impaired persons will be celebrated at **ST. PIUS X CATHOLIC CHURCH** at 12:30 p.m. Sunday.

Bishop George M. Murray will speak at **ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH** in Irvington at 11 a.m. Sunday.

A gospel concert will be held at 3 p.m. Sunday at **MOUNT OLIVE AME CHURCH** on Bella Street. Featured will be the choruses of St. Paul's and Morningstar Baptist churches and soloist Juanita Bettis.

Family and Friends Day will be observed Sunday at **ZION HOPE PRIMITIVE BAPTIST CHURCH** on Prichard Avenue during the 3 p.m. service.

The Norman Simpson Ensemble will present a concert at 3 p.m. Sunday at the **GREATER MACEDONIA BAPTIST CHURCH** on Chinquapin Street.



MS. DOZIER

Verna Dozier, a teacher and scholar of the Bible from Washington, D.C., will lead a weekend of concentrated Bible study being sponsored by **ALL SAINTS EPISCOPAL CHURCH** and **GOVERNMENT STREET PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH** Sept. 22 and 23. Sessions on Sept. 22 from 7:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. and on Sept. 23 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. will be in the All Saints Youth Center. A final meeting of the weekend will be Sunday at noon in Washington Square. Persons interested in registering should contact All Saints, 438-1749, or Government Street Presbyterian Church, 432-1749.

THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS district Labor Day picnic will begin at 11 a.m. Monday at the home of Council 4888. A covered-dish dinner will be provided.

A get-together for Mobile area students who will attend **AUBURN UNIVERSITY** this fall will be at 7 p.m. Tuesday at 208 Pier St. in Fairhope. The party is to acquaint the students with one another and with the Rev. Bob Stone, Catholic chaplain at Auburn.

First and second year courses in "Science of Mind" will begin at the **CHURCH OF RELIGIOUS SCIENCE** on Old Shell Road with a meeting at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday. The first Sunday service in the church's new building will be at 10:30 a.m. Sunday.

Children's choir rehearsals at **KINGSWOOD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH** on Perin Road will begin at 3:30 p.m. Wednesday.

Sister Lucia, a Lutheran nun from Darmstadt, West Germany, will speak at **BAY VIEW HEIGHTS BAPTIST CHURCH** on Cottage Hill Avenue at 7 p.m. Wednesday.

The Rev. Joel Hilburn will preach during a revival Wednesday through Sunday, Sept. 10, at **CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH**, 611 Marine St. Hilburn is the son of the Rev. Bruce Hilburn, a former pastor of the church. Services will be at 7 p.m. weekdays and at 11 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. Sunday.

The first gathering of a new service and performance ministry which is being formed for the young people of **DAUPHIN WAY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH** will be at 5 p.m. Wednesday in the church lounge. Interested junior and senior high school students should attend the organizational meeting.

Homilist for **CLERGY DAY OF RECOLLECTION** Wednesday at Visitation Monastery on Spring Hill Avenue will be the Rev. Richard Wagner, pastor of Prince of Peace Parish. After Rosary and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament.

The **WOMEN'S AGLOW**

FELLOWSHIP meeting will be at 10 a.m. Wednesday at the Holiday Inn on Airport Boulevard at I-65. Member Geldie Marshall will speak, and a continental breakfast will be served. Reservations may be made by calling 476-7638 or 661-0975. The organization is non-profit and interdenominational.

ALABAMA BAPTISTS are sponsoring a Young Adult Evangelism Weekend at Shocco Springs Baptist Assembly in Talladega, Ala., Friday and Saturday. Conference leaders will be Joe Ford, Dave Bennett and John Ueltzen of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board in Atlanta, Ga.; and Dr. Otis Williams, evangelism director of the Baptist State Executive Board in Montgomery. Music will be led by Tom and Ann Poe of Midwest City, Okla.

The **WELL** is sponsoring a seminar entitled "Adventures in Christian Growth" from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday at Broad Street United Methodist Church. Bryant Wilson, director of the Well, an interdenominational center for personal and spiritual growth, will conduct the seminar. Wilson will speak on inner healing from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sept. 16. Additional information may be obtained by contacting Wilson at 438-4238.

Dr. Steve Taylor, the "Affable Armenian," will be the evangelist for a revival at **OAKDALE BAPTIST CHURCH**, 1200 Gayle St., at 10:50 a.m. and 6 p.m. Sept. 10 and at 7:30 p.m. Sept. 11-13. Taylor is from Greenville, S.C.

A **MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND** will be held Sept. 15-17 at Visitation Monastery. Tom or Pat Glenn at 666-6972 can supply further information.

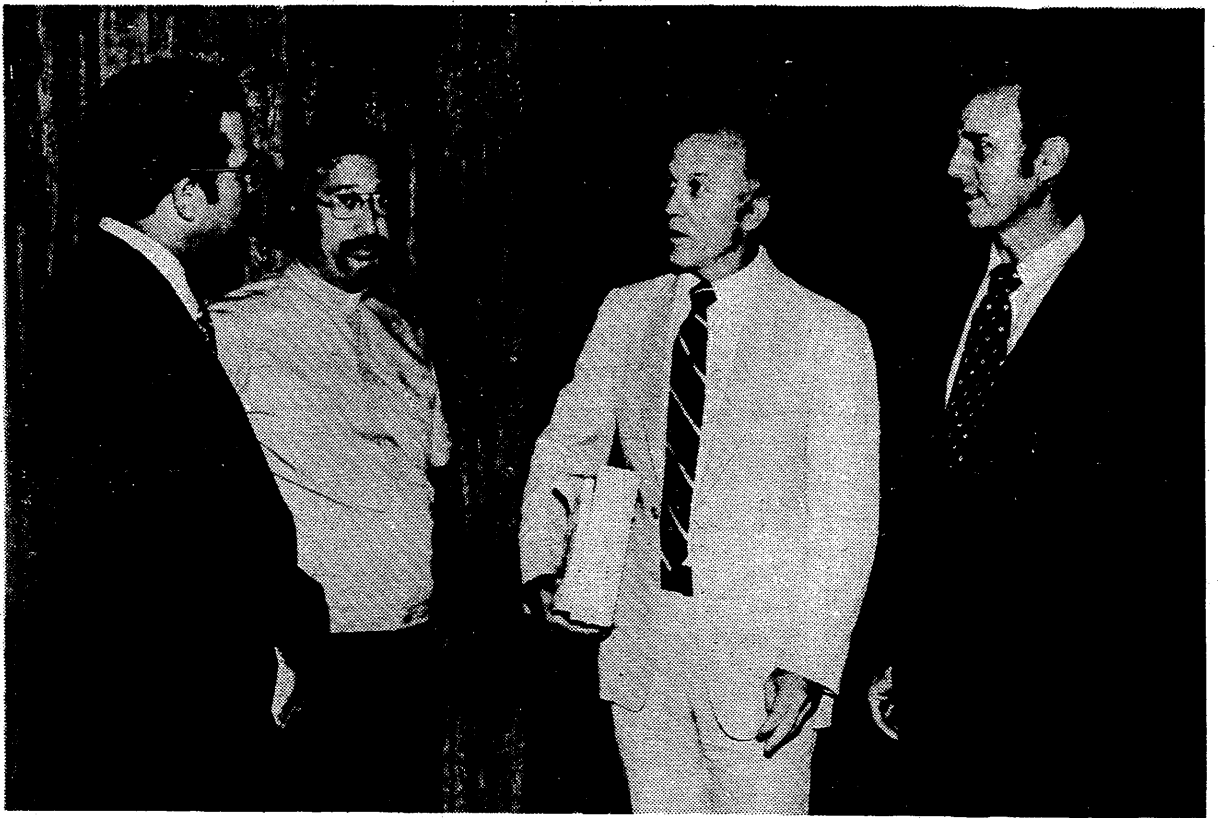
The **INSTITUTE OF PASTORAL CARE** will sponsor a class in effectiveness training for parents from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. Sept. 18 through Nov. 20 at Spring Hill Presbyterian Church. Interested persons may register by calling 438-3476.

CARING FRIENDS, a local organization of parents who have lost a child, meets every second Tuesday of every other month at Dauphin Way United Methodist Church. The group, which meets at 7:30 p.m., is in the process of setting up a 24-hour call service. On call through the end of the summer are Ila Hicks, 473-1836; Nicki MacDonald, 342-5251; and Patsy Cope, 342-8948.



MISS WICKES

Kim Wickes, a Korean-American who was permanently blinded at the age of 3 by an exploding shell during the invasion of her village by North Koreans, will sing and speak during the 7 p.m. Sunday service at the **FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH** of Chickasaw. She also will sing during the 11 a.m. service.



MINISTERS MEET — Chatting prior to a meeting Tuesday of the Mobile Ministerial Association at the Hellenic Community Center are, left to right, William H. McLean, vice president of the association and executive of the Presbytery of Mobile; the Rev. Dimitrios Simeonidis, pastor of the Annun-

tion Greek Orthodox Church; psychologist Will Baker of the University of South Alabama's family practice department; and the Rev. Bill Whitfield, president of the association and pastor of Cypress Shores Baptist Church. (Mobile Press Register photo by J.P. Schaffner)

Theory on family discussed at ministerial association meet

By ANNE REEKS
Press Register Reporter

Looking at the family as a system was the idea of psychologist Will Baker's talk at a meeting of the Mobile Ministerial Association Tuesday at the Hellenic Community Center.

Baker, coordinator of the rural family practice training program in the University of South Alabama's family practice department, explained: "When you understand the context out of which a person comes, then you are better able to understand the symptoms being expressed."

"I think this has a lot of relevance to ministers and the church family."

In his presentation entitled "Family Systems Theory," Baker, himself with ministerial training, said there were six interlocking concepts of the theory, each applying to the whole system as well as to the separate segments of it.

They were, he said:
—Differentiation of self, the cornerstone of the theory, which has to do with the way the intermingling of emotional and intellectual functioning is handled.

—Triangles, which describes the predictable pattern of emotional forces among three people.

—Nuclear family emotional system, the configuration of emotional forces operating over the years in the nuclear family.

—Family projection process, detailing the process by which the problems of the parents are projected to one or more children.

—Multigeneration transmission process, which describes the family emotional process transmitted through generations.

—Sibling position, which holds that children develop fixed personality characteristics according to where they fell in the line of children.

Take, for example, a history of alcoholism in the extended family, Baker said. That would put a person in the nuclear family at high risk of developing the disease, he stated. Similarly, he said, marital discord used to deal with anxiety in the extended family could turn up in the nuclear family.

"With the awareness that the system is set up for this kind of relationship, it gives you insight," Baker said. "It may be a system problem," he added.

"I believe in the theory as a result of working with it," Baker commented. The Ladies Philopteros Society of the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church prepared lunch for the approximately 25 area clergymen who attended the meeting.

+Religion+

Counseling groups starting at Catholic Social Services

The children and family division of Catholic Social Services is scheduling several discussion and counseling groups beginning this month.

Many people seeking services through the agency may find the group experience to be of more benefit than individual counseling, Dan Williams, supervisor of Catholic Social Services, said.

Two groups for adolescents will be formed in September. One will be for boys aged 13-15, and another will be for girls of the same ages. Both will be limited to nine members each and will meet weekly after school for up to 12 weeks.

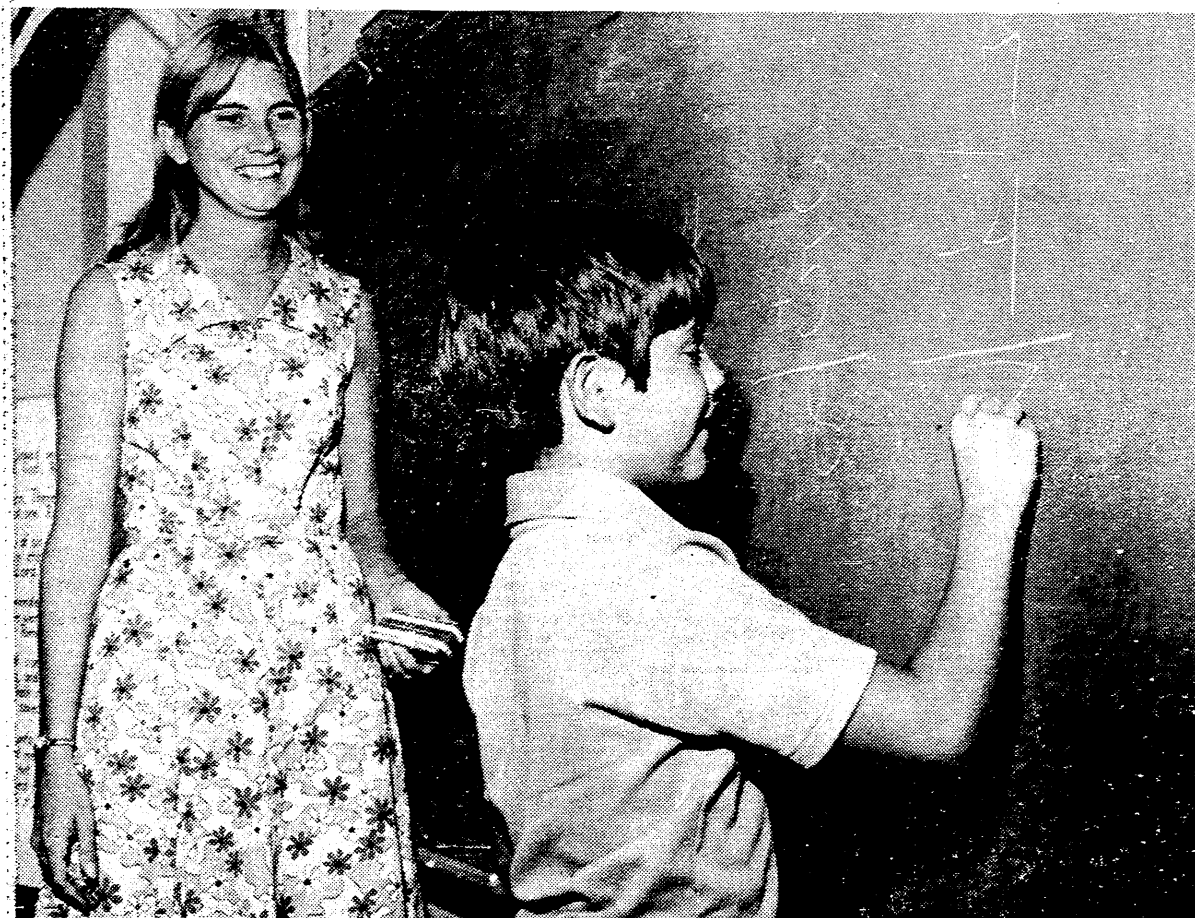
Another group will be for adults experiencing personal difficulties and

will meet one afternoon a week beginning Sept. 28. The group will be limited to 12 members and will meet up to 12 times.

A discussion group for young adults of both sexes will be conducted on Thursday evenings for five weeks beginning Sept. 21. This group will be limited to 12 persons aged 18-30 and will consider such topics as occupational choice, marital decisions and parenthood.

Beginning Sept. 21, there will be a group for the recently divorced. It will be limited to 12 members and will meet on Thursdays for nine weeks.

Further information may be obtained or enrollment effected by contacting Williams or Alice Collins at 430-1603.



PAROCHIAL SCHOOLS OPEN — The beginning of the new school year at parochial schools throughout Mobile County saw Greystone Christian School third-grader Robert Sota doing some refresher arithmetic for his teacher, Bonnie Tipton. School started at Greystone as well as St. Paul's Episcopal School Monday. Catholic school also began Monday,

and Central Baptist School was in session last week. Classes started at St. Luke's Episcopal School Thursday. Mobile Christian School is scheduling regular classes beginning Tuesday, and Aquinas Academy opens Wednesday. (Mobile Press Register photo by Roy C. McAuley)



Bishop Sheen Writes—

By Bishop Fulton J. Sheen

Beyond mediocrity

There is only one reason why we are not better: that is because we do not will to be better. We want to be better, but wanting is wishing. Willing is decision implemented by action. Most of us make the same reservations about our moral betterment that we do about dieting — we will start tomorrow. As St. Augustine said, "I want to be chaste: dear Lord, but a little later on." The thinnest border line between opposites is the realm of the spirit. There is an abyss between poverty and wealth, a line that few can cross unless external circumstances and good fortune are present. The dividing line between ignorance and learning is also wide, for with the best of intentions, both leisure and talents which are beyond personal power are necessary. But the line between sin and virtue, between mediocrity and sanctity, is the thinnest of all, for all that is required is an efficacious act of our will in cooperation with God's grace. As Leon Bloy said, "one step beyond mediocrity and we are saved."

Our will is full of excuses which are half-conscious because we refuse to face them. The more we rebel against examining our reservations, the more certain it is that these are the very ones that must be given up. The in-

dividual must make a descent into his subconsciousness, into his "reservations," the assumptions of his life, which he does not see but which he sees through. Every mind has windows through which we see reality, be we forget that our windows are colored and so reality is discolored or disfigured. Prejudice, habits of sin, pride, jealousy, all give a different tint to life's great objectives. If one does not have God as the supreme love of life, he has a tin god, or what psychologists call an ego-ideal, by which he judges everything he sees and hears. He who thinks life consists of titillation of nerve endings of the body becomes utterly incapable of judging the joys of the spirit. The coward who is afraid to face sacrifice of his lower motivations covers up his want of love by hate.

Just as sometimes our dreams are our disguised wishes, so too these reservations destroy our conscious attitudes toward life. Before we can rise from the dead, we must first go down into the hell of these unconscious assumptions by a thorough-going self-analysis in the light of how we stand in God's light. Because egotism and self-deceit are inseparable, because the more selfish a person is the more he disguises his deceit, a pitiless ex-

amination of every subconscious corner of our minds is necessary to bring out the self as it really is, as distinguished from the ego as it thinks it is. The uprooting of reservations is the essential condition of seeing the truth.

Nothing so much cripples the spiritual life as these hidden "bugs" in the motor of our soul, such as self-seeking, immorality, dishonesty and bitterness toward others. We wonder why, when we seem to advance so far, that we suffer such defeats. Invariably it is because of prejudices and evil habits and the "Trojan horse" of dominant fault. Until that is dug out and laid before God, there can be no real progress in the spirit.

Very few have a plan of action which is broad enough to take in the troubling of the self for the sake of moral perfection. But willing to be better is not enough. This decision is merely like opening the blinds: immediately the light floods the darkened spaces. So with the heart: when it admits its need, the grace of God begins to pour into the soul, and out of this conjunction of our will and divine power there comes a goodness which is not of this world, and also an inner peace which nothing in this world can destroy.