

Sharp Street Newsletter

FALL 2006

SHARP STREET UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH

1310 OLNEY-SANDY SPRING RD.
SANDY SPRING, MD. 20860
Sunday Service: 10:00 a.m.
Friday Night Bible Study: 7-9 p.m.



Pastor,
Rev. George E. Hackey, Jr.

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A Mission of Hope

Sharp Street United Methodist Church member and University of the District of Columbia full-time English professor, Dorothy Phaire has started a theatre ministry through her non-profit company **The Heralds of Hope Theater Co, Inc** as a means to promote, mentor, and provide a platform of artistic expression for aspiring actors of all ages. Says Ms. Phaire, "We aim to produce value-based plays that depict contemporary real-life issues and universal themes with an underlying Christian message. Through our theatre ministry, our aim is to promote community outreach, awareness of important social problems, and dialogue to bring about solutions." In summer 2006 Ms. Phaire wrote and directed a new values-based stage play called "*Saving Us Saints*." The play combines drama, humor, and music to portray a family in conflict over teen peer pressure, adult infidelity and a family's road to recovery. The play ran on August 4th through the 5th for three shows at Glenmont United Methodist Church in Wheaton, Maryland and for a final evening show at the University of the District of Columbia on August 25. The play received a wonderful response from audiences at all the shows. Below are a few of their comments.

From a viewer at one of the Glenmont United Methodist Church shows:

"I was not quite prepared for the religious and moral lesson... I really enjoyed the play. The character development was really excellent... I was hanging on the edge of my chair waiting for Mama Pearl to do something to that hussy in the beauty shop – what great restraint!"

From a viewer at the University of the District of Columbia show:

"It was fantastic! The dialogue was great and some of the Actors really did a superb job. Loved Mama Pearl and the great job this actor did - which was amazing since this was her first role!"

Ms Phaire says producing a play is a collaborative effort that cannot be done without the tremendous support of a great many people. She is thankful to all the Sharp Street members and University of the District of Columbia family that came through in countless ways to make this project a huge success from acting in the play, performing backstage and technical work, ticket sales, and providing refreshments. Sharp Street member Arlene Clipper stole the show as the feisty, no-nonsense *Mama Pearl*, and Delicia Moore appeared in her second Jordan Family play-

-this time as a beauty shop customer. Frances Parker not only helped backstage, but also appeared on stage as a beauty shop customer. Another Sharp Street member, Mickey Daye worked tirelessly behind the scenes as stage manager. Many others from our church family came through when asked. In addition to Sharp Street United Methodist Church members, the play project brought together residents of the Washington, D. C. community. Everyone that worked on this project whether their task was large or small all shared a common bond of desiring to praise and glorify God. The play sought to deliver a Christian message of what happens when we succumb to temptation-sin and how to seek repentance and forgiveness. The 2006 summer theatre workshop was truly a collaboration of like minds and spirits.

Ms. Phaire is currently working on a new script for a follow-up play depicting the same Jordan Family characters with a host of new supporting roles that audiences have yet to meet. That next project is planned for the Herald of Hope Theatre Company's Summer 07 Play Project. In the meantime, there are plans to put on another "*Saving Us Saints*" performance in late May 2007 at a venue in the Washington, D. C. Metropolitan area. Those plans are currently underway.