

THE WORD, MIAMI (Miami)
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 Senior Pastor Phillip Readon

The Times and Democrat
 Sat, Aug 25, 1990 - Page 10

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Rev. Phillip Readon

The right to **REBUILD**

■ West Hyde Park, a neighborhood nearly overtaken by industry, sees hope with the proposed rezoning of the area.

By **SUSAN EASTMAN**
Times Correspondent

TAMPA — As Michele Ogilvie drove through the neighborhood its residents call West Hyde Park, she saw two signs that told her it might be saved: the red brick New Salem Missionary Baptist Church and the sidewalks around it.

"That was the first thing that hit me: Why sidewalks?" she said. "Some very affluent neighborhoods don't have sidewalks."

Ogilvie, a senior planner with the City-County Planning Commission, persuaded the commission last year to put off deciding whether to allow a communications tower in the neighborhood until she contacted residents.

When she set out on that task, she helped set in motion a series of events that could well lead to the rebirth of a historic black neighborhood many outsiders had written off.

Highways have cut through black neighborhoods, hazardous materials have been buried in them. If the land they occupied became valuable, homes were bought and their occupants

moved off in the name of redevelopment. The wishes of the white majority traditionally outweighed the desires of the neighborhoods' residents.

"I hate to say it, but yeah, I guess it is because of lack of inclusion," Ogilvie said. "You don't know that neighborhood. You don't know the people. When the decision is made, you don't go out."

West Hyde Park, too, has been dying a slow death since the 1950s when it was classified as an industrial area. But now residents and others who have ties to the neighborhood are fighting to preserve what is left.

When the area — roughly between Kennedy Boulevard

and Interstate 275 and Fremont and Willow avenues — was zoned for industrial use, homes no longer conformed. If they burned or were otherwise severely damaged, they couldn't be rebuilt. Businesses moved onto some lots.

The trend continued until a cellular telephone company wanted to put a communications tower on a small lot

Please see **REBUILD** Page 6



Times art



Neighborhood resident Jerome Buckins, left, sits on Ralph Harris' porch as they talk and watch folks pass by.

Rebuild from Page 1

between two houses on Fig Street, and Ogilvie made her trip to the neighborhood.

She found a place where warehouses, industries and wholesale businesses abut and sometimes surround clusters of homes on small lots. Many of the businesses are boarded up, the warehouses empty. Other businesses have expanded by buying up homes. Where there isn't industrial development, vacant lots are sprinkled next to houses.

But the sidewalk, the church and the clusters of homes that remain, Ogilvie said, are evidence of a once-vibrant community. In a neighborhood that had been abandoned, the church would be boarded up and abandoned, too. But the New Salem Missionary Baptist Church on N Oregon Avenue didn't look abandoned. It looked well tended and well used.

"When I saw that church on the corner, I knew it was not too late," Ogilvie said.

Although only 39 homes remain in the area surrounding the

Although only 39 homes remain in the area surrounding the church north of Kennedy Boulevard, the church draws its strength from a 400-member congregation. After meeting with church members and residents, Ogilvie discovered that people who grew up in the neighborhood and who live there now still have a deep attachment to the community.

Ogilvie's staff recommended to the planning commission last week that the area's zoning be changed to allow homes to be built there again. A core area of about four blocks of residential-only zoning near the church would be the beginning of the re-establishment of the neighborhood. Surrounding that, from Kennedy to Interstate 275 and from the CSX railroad line to Fremont Avenue, a mix of residential, commercial and industrial uses would be allowed.

About 150 residents with ties to the neighborhood and the church came to a planning commission meeting to show their sup-

port for the change. They talked about the meaning of the neighborhood and the importance of preserving it.

"We would like to see this area rejoined to the residential community surrounding it," said the Rev. Phillip Readon, pastor of the New Salem Missionary Baptist Church.

'A place to come back to'

Readon's church was built in its current location in the 1950s by the black men and women who lived in a neighborhood they called West Hyde Park or New Hyde Park. The neighborhood was thus distinguished from white Hyde Park where some of the women worked as maids and men worked as chauffeurs and gardeners.

The black people who lived in the community considered West Hyde Park as an area bounded on the south by Horatio Avenue, said Jerome Buckins, whose grandmother moved to North B Street in 1917. South of what is Kennedy Boulevard near Horatio was called



Times photo — MIKE PEASE

The Rev. Phillip Readon of New Salem Missionary Baptist Church: "There is a sentimental attachment to the area."

■ West Hyde Park, a neighborhood nearly overtaken by

Thank you again for your assistance in this matter.

Windsor, Jerry M.

Regards

From: Hepburn
Sent: Wednesday, October 26, 2011 9:01 AM
To: Windsor, Jerry M.
Cc: FBHSPT1 - Penny Baumgardner
Subject: FW: death notice

For your information

From: Gary Johnson [<mailto:garyj@mbachurches.org>]
Sent: Tuesday, October 25, 2011 4:09 PM

Dear Pastors and Friends:

This week, a dear retired pastor died from cancer. Pastor **Irvin Readon** has been in the area most, if not all of his life of 74 years.

You may not have known him, but he has two sons who are pastors in the Miami Baptist Association.

Pastor **Phillip Readon** has been at Bible Baptist Church, 9801 NW 24th Ave for more than 6 years. Pastor **Eric Readon** started the New Beginning Missionary Baptist Church, 2125 NW 155th St about 8 years ago.

The Viewing for **Rev. Irvin Readon** will be held at New Beginning Missionary Baptist Church from 5pm – 8pm, with a service at 7pm on Friday, October 28. The Funeral service will be held at New Birth Missionary Baptist Church, and Bishop Curry at 2300 NW 135th St at 11:00am, Saturday, October 29.

I wanted you to know. Please pray for these guys and their families. Also, if you get a chance to send them an e-mail, I think they would appreciate it too.

Of course, you are welcome and invited to be with them at these service times as well. Thanks.

In Christ
gary

Gary L. Johnson
Dr. Gary L. Johnson
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