Columbia Capers

By Pinnie L. Ross

Visit from Richmond

Volunteer Choir performs at St. John Baptist

By Pinnie L. Ross

The Volunteer Choir from the Second Baptist Church in Richmond, Va., under the leadership of young, talented Larry Bland gave a concert Saturday night at St. John Baptist Church, Interfaith Center, Columbia, Md.

The concert was sponsored by the Adult Gorpel Choir, Mrs. Barbara Barnes, president.

The 120-voice choir made their first appearance. The ladies wore long red gowns, elbow length gloves and black corsages.

All men wore black suits except the director who was attired in a three-piece white vested suit, black shirt with a red, black and white tie.

The Volunteer Choir was celebrating their seventh anniversary which ended with an elaborated fete at their suite at the Holiday Inn.

The first portion of the concert included, "Lord I CAn't Turn Back," "He is a Lily of the Valley," "I Am Seeking for a City," "Plenty Good Room in My Father's Kingdom."

Then came a repertoire of folk songs, including "Great God Almighty."

From the beginning of the first song the spirit had reached the congregation and the clapping of hands and "Amen's" from the audience were unbelievable.

After an eight-minute break for the Volunteer Choir, they came back with the spirit higher than before.

Parading this time, the ladies were dressed in long black pencil-fitted gowns with short bell sleeves.

Leading the group was the artistic director, attired in a three-piece gray suit.

The Choir opened with "The Storm is Passing Over." This time they used all kinds of instruments from the tambourine to bells.

The special number that made the audience stand and really clap their hands was "How To Reach the Massive." The choir dramatized various words of the song, led by the beautifull voice of Larry Bland. Bland first performed on the piano, then directed. He is a versatile young artist.

Larry Bland

Soloist for the concert were: Harold Brown, Linda Davis, Clara Brown, Marilyn Miller, Deborah Bland, Elaine Watkins, Clint Roane and Raymond Smith.

The Volunteer Choir have given concerts in a variety of states including New York, Connecticut, Washington, Philadelphia, Maryland, South Carolina and as far south as Florida.

Bland sees the Volunteer Choir as just one of the many indications of what is happening with gospel music

"It is a whole new concept of praising God, a new movement that brings gospel music out of the church and out to the people as more than a Sunday morning ritual. It is an important move that sometimes we take the music out of the church."

He feels that the church has been missing a lot of people, and it is a good way to reach a large number of people.

The choir reached more than 22,000 people in 1977 when they performed in Dogwood Dell, the first gospel offering in the 21-year-old Festival of Arts put together by the Richmond Department of Recreation and Parks.

About the Director

Larry Bland is a 25-year-old artist, a graduate of Maggie Walker High School. He has a B.S. Degree in Vocal Music from Virginia State College.

The young actor made his first debute last year in "Purlie" at Haymarket Dinner Theater, and "Don't Bother Me, I Can't Cope" which he directed.

He has made many guest appearances with such famous artists as Andrea Crouch. Most of the choir songs are composed by Bland.

The young actor has one dream: to perform before President Carter.

St. John Baptist Church had their Homecoming service last Sunday afternoon. Guest Evangelist was the one and only dynamic Rev. O. D. Brown, pastor of the Second Baptist Church, Richmond, Va.

Prior to the Homecoming service, a buffet dinner was served prepared by the members of the Adult Choir.

Rev. O. D. Brown also led the St. John Baptist Church Revival services beginning Monday night through Wednesday.

The distinguished Evangelist, Rev. O. D. Brown has conducted revivals throughout the State of Virginia and as far as Michigan. He has an A.B. Degree in History and a Masters Degree in Christian Education.

The Rev. Walter Parrish II is pastor of St. John Baptist Church.

Thought For Today

If I can help somebody then my living shall not be in vain.

Genealogy course

The Maryland Historical Society is offering a course in basic genealogy at its headquarters, 201 W. Monument St.

The course will include six Saturday sessions, Sept. 23, to Oct. 28, inclusive.

All sessions will begin at 10 a.m. and last until 2:30 p.m. with a lunch break. The course is open to the public.

The course will stress such fundamentals of genealogical research as interviews, letter writing, land and probate records, black genealogy, and church and census records. The teaching staff will include Robert Barnes, Mary Meyer and Anna Cartlidge and other experience genealogists.

The class will be limited to 35 participants and prior registration is required.

Additional information can be obtained by calling the Course Chairman, George B. Wilson at 235-8572 or by writing to Miss Ella Rowe, Registrar, 4516 N. Charles St., Baltimore 21210.

Sexuality seminar scheduled

A limited number of places are still open for an all - day seminar on adolescent sexuality to be presented on Sept. 19 by the Family Planning Training Institute, a division of Planned Parenthood of Maryland.

The event is the first in a new series of sexuality seminars to be given during the fall and winter at the Institute's headquarters on the second floor at 303 W. Monument St. Each session is open to all interested members of the community, especially parents, students, social workers, and clergy. Tuition is $10 per person per seminar.

Discussion topics for the Sept. 19 session include Techniques for Talking About Sex with Teens, Sexual Decision - Making, Teenage Pregnancy, and Teaching Adolescents about Contraception.

Remaining seminars in the series are Sex Education Techniques, Oct. 18, Media Seminar: Decision - Making in Sexuality, Nov. 21, Male Sexuality, Dec. 12, and Self Health Care for Men and Women, Jan. 25.

For further information, call Mary L. Craig, director of the Training Institute, Planned Parenthood of Maryland, 752 - 0131.

University Women to hold open meeting

The American Association of University Women, Baltimore branch, will hold the opening meeting of the club on Sept. 21.

Members and friends will meet at the clubhouse, 601 W. 40th St., for an International covered dish supper at 6:30 p.m.

At 7:30 p.m., the speaker of the evening, Mrs. Suzanne H. O'Hatnick will discuss, "Women as Agents of Change," a national AAUW study topic.

Mrs. O'Hatnick is activities coordinator for the Baltimore Council for International Visitors, formerly worked with the Baltimore City Department of Housing and Community Development and also, was a Peace Corps Volunteer in Chimbote, Peru.

As a former chairman of Volunteers for the West Baltimore Middle School, Mrs. O'Hatnick will discuss how the group worked to bring about desired changes.

Mrs. Mary Beth Crafts is chairman of the meeting.

Members and interested friends are asked to call Mrs. Ruth Ward at 323-4400 or Miss Dorothy Eisenbrandt at 235-9667 by Sept. 18 for reservations and information concerning the covered dishes needed.

Anyone interested is also invited to participate in the discussion to follow the supper.

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This offer available in the following A&P Stores: Baltimore including Aberdeen, Bel Air, Havre De Grace, Joppatowne, Anne Arundel County & the Delmarva Peninsula. Washington D.C. & vicinity except Manassas, Warrenton & Dumfries. Va. Red Lion, York, Lebanon, Paxtang, Hershey, Hughesville, Chambersburg, Gettysburg, Hanover, Carlisle, Camp Hill, Waynesboro, Enola, Mechanicsburg, Pa. Offer ends December 30, 1978.

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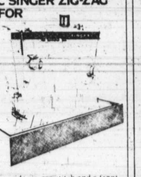

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SAVE 10¢ A&P Homestyle or Buttermilk Biscuits 4 10 ct. pkgs. 59¢

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