LEGAL NOTICES

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THE LIVING CHURCH

The Chatmon Chorale:

Bringing the word of God through song

SONGBIRDS — The Chatmon Chorale, a family gospel group consisting of a mother and her six daughters, has been singing at Unio[illegible] for over 15 years.

AFRO photo by Robin McGinty

Shown are (L to R): Thomasine Holt, Gaye Lewis, Barbara Hicks, Linda Thornton, Pearl Chatmon, Roselyn Leighton a[illegible]

By Clarence W. Hunter
AFRO Staff Writer

A mother and her six daughters stood in the recreation hall of Union Baptist Church on Druid Hill Avenue rehearsing the songs they would sing in an upcoming church concert. In the background some of the mother's grandchildren played quietly on the floor.

The women sounded good singing together.

They call themselves the Chatmon Chorale and they have been singing as a gospel group for slightly more than 15 years.

Led by their 53 - year - old mother, Pearl Chatmon, the group includes her daughters Linda Thornton, 32; Thomasine "Patsy" Holt, 18; Roselyn Leighton, 28; Barbara Hicks, 36; Joyce Jones, 34; and Gaye Lewis, 21.

Chatmon Chorale's concerts have been limited to singing at affairs for Union Baptist Church. But professional aspirations are a possibility for some members of the group.

"Three of us have talked about going professional," said Roselyn Leighton, who works as a financial secretary for the West Baltimore Community Health Care Corporation. "But the idea has not been discussed among the rest of the group."

"It's not that we don't want to," said Linda Thornton, "Its just that some of us can't afford to sing professionally. We've got jobs and other responsibilities."

"Anyway, we sing for family enjoyment," said Barbara Hicks, who along with her sister Linda, has a family and works as a supervisor for the Social Security Administration. "We sing what feels good to us."

Thomasina Holt, a senior at Western added she does not plan to make music her career. She said she is going to Towson State University in the fall to major in mass communication.

The only Chorale member to take a serious stab at a music career has been Gaye Lewis. She has sung with a group called the Emergency Landing as well as studying for two years at the Peabody Conservatory of Music.

The members of the Chatmon Chorale started singing as young children and made their group debute in the early 1960s.

"We used to sing all types of music," said Barbara. "We used to copy the jazz artists and Momma used to join in."

But it was gospel music that was the focal point of the group, according to Mrs. Chatmon.

"Gospel is our music that dates back to slavery days," she said. "You don't have to explain gospel music because it speaks for itself."

"We get kind of a spiritual closeness when we sing gospel," said Barbara. "And sometimes when Linda sings we're all moved to tears."

Besides singing as a group, members of the Chatmon Chorale sing with various church choirs. They rehearse for two or three hours for about four or five days before a concert.

The entire group sings without music and has no doubt they're good.

"Of course we're good," says Barbara. "You want us to say that we're not. We know when some of us make mistakes but we've never [illegible]."

The Rev. Vernon Dobson, pastor of the church, confirms this.

Dr. Walter Parrish speaks at Southern Baptist convention

By Pinnie L. Ross

The installation of Dr. Walter L. Parrish II as executive minister of The American Baptist Churches of the South was held recently at the International Inn, Washington, D.C.

The installation took place at the Culminating of Abeals four-day conference. Representatives from 200 churches across the country were present to witness the installation of Dr. Parrish.

Dr. Parrish is the former minister of St. John Baptist Church in Columbia, Md. Prior to becoming the minister of St. John, he served as assistant national fund director, funding renewal of the American Baptist Churches, and co-pastor of Grace Memorial Baptist Church in Baltimore.

He attended public school in his hometown, Huntington, Va. He earned two bachelor's degrees, one in sociology from Virginia Seminary and College and another in religion from Lynchburg College, in Lynchburg, Va.

Rev. Walter L. Parrish

He earned his master's degree in divinity from Virginia Seminary School of Religion. He also completed business law studies at the University of Virginia Seminary and College and has also received honorary doctorate degrees.

The newly appointed chief minister is duties will include responsibility for programs and services for church development covering 250 congregations in 16 states.

These churches make up one third of the U.S. American Baptist Churches. The chief minister has a staff of 10. His office is located in Regional Headquarters in Atlanta, Ga.

In the Call of Celebration, Dr. Leon C. Riddick said, "We are fortunate to have as our executive pastor a man who knows so much about American Baptist Churches. I hope you will continue to give your prayers to our new executive, and all officers who will serve in the future. . ."

Dr. J. Bruce Evans, presentation of the executive, said, "When it became apparent that our executive minister position would be vacated, we appointed a search committee representing each area and regional minister. We made a list of every prospect executive, sent letters, we received nominations of over 150, but our candidate was received and approved with unanimous vote and that was Dr. Walter Parrish as third executive minister."

A great message came from Dr. James D. Peters, a former executive minister of American Baptist Churches of the South, now Minister of the New Hope Baptist Church, Denver, Colo. His subject was "Praying For the Coming of The Kingdom."

"This is a prayer that we will have peace on earth. Peace can only come when people stop thinking about what's best for themselves and begin to think about what's best for all people involved," he said.

"Thank you for the installation offering. I want it to be used as a tribute to those who have served our region, by placing in our board conference room a color photograph of all past presidents and past executives.

"Lest we forget so fervent those who have helped pave the way for us, with God's help and your support, we are going to be the best region in the whole United Nations."

After the service, there was a line formed for autographs of the new chief minister.

ORGANIST MICHAEL THOMAS BRITT (C) made his concert debut at St. Philip's Church in Annapolis on May 20. He played the new Roger's organ that was recently purchased by the church. Shown with Britt are St. Philip's organist, Charles H. Covington (L) and rector, the Rev. Robert M. Powell. Britt is the organist for Arbutus United Methodist Church and studied organ at the Peabody Institute for five years. St. Philip's Church is located at Bestgate and Severn Grove Rd.

BABY CONTEST — The volunteers of Whitestone Baptist Church recently had a baby contest as part of their Women's Day Celebration. Shown seated with her mother as first place winner is Shawna Marie Jones and mother, Mrs. Rhoda L. Jones. Standing from (L), Matt Stephen III and mother, Mrs. Shawnette Stephen; Maurice Ruffin and mother Mrs. Ruffin; Mrs. Hatchett is shown holding daughter, Martina Jeanette Hatchett. The Rev. W. H. Thompson is pastor.

Metro church briefs

The women of New Trinity Congregation Church, 2000 block Edmondson Ave., will celebrate Women's Day on Sunday, May 27. The Rev. Mrs. Maggie L. Norton, assistant pastor will be the 11 a.m. speaker, the Rev. Mrs. Myrna Powell of Ebenezer Baptist Church is the 3:30 p.m. speaker. Dinner will be served following the morning service. Bishop M. D. Norton Sr. is pastor.

The Young Adult Choir of Providence Baptist Church, 4200 Liberty Heights Ave., will celebrate their fourth anniversary on May 27, 7:30 p.m. Jeffrey Heckstall is director, Ms. Barbara Marshall is president and the Rev. Marcus G. Wood is pastor.

The Rev. David Gaines will be the 11 a.m. speaker May 27 for the annual Women's Day service at 3500 Edmondson Ave. A play entitled "Twelve Disciples" is scheduled for 3 p.m. Ms. Hallie Hill is chairperson, the Rev. Wilbur S. Watson is pastor.

The youth group of Elderslie St. Andrews United Methodist Church will sponsor a volleyball marathon on June 9, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. at Western High School grounds. The church is located at 5601 Pimlico Rd.

The Jones Watkins Missionary Circle of Enon Baptist Church, Edmondson Avenue and Schroeder Street will observe its 56th anniversary on June 3, 4 p.m. The Rev. Walter Thomas, pastor of New Paalmist Baptist Church is the speaker. Mrs. Evelyn Code is co-chairperson, Miss Laura C. Whitfield, co - chairperson; Mrs. Nellie Williams, president, the Rev. Porter W. Phillips Jr., pastor and the Rev. Arthur J. Payne, pastor emeritus.

The Inspirational Singers of Providence Baptist Church, 4200 Liberty Heights will be presented in a concert on Sunday, May 27 at St. John United Methodist Church, 6019 Belle Grove Rd. The Rev. M. G. Wood is pastor of Providence and the Rev. Lloyd Marcus is pastor of St. John. Mrs. Carrie Hydan is president.

The Affirmation of Faith Choir will be presented in a recital on May 27, 4 p.m. at St. Timothy's Christian Baptist Church, 4005 Groveland Ave., the Rev. Carl L. Washington is pastor and Ms. Audrey E. Phillips is director of the choir.

The youth choir of Maryland Church of God in Christ, 5100 Denmore Ave., will sponsor a youth jubilee service on May 26, 7:30 p.m. Ms. Veronica Watts is president;

The combined choirs of Timothy Baptist Church will have a recital on June 1, 8 p.m. at 1214 Saratoga St. The Rev. James L. Ball is pastor.

Annual United Methodist Student Day will be observed on June 10, 10 a.m. at Ames Memorial United Methodist Church, Carey and Baker Street. Dr. Doris Bright will be the speaker. The Rev. Lovell Parham is pastor, the Rev. Ada Jones, assistant pastor

The Rev. Robert T. Hurt, pastor of Community Baptist Church will be the 4 p.m. speaker at Ray of Hope Baptist Church, Harford Road and Parkside Drive on May 27. The Rev Charles M. Franklin is pastor.

The Rev. Jimmy Rowe of New Bethel Baptist Church, Tulsa Oklahoma will be the speaker June 3-7, 7:30 p.m. for the Spring revival at Emmanuel Baptist Church, 7400 Linden Ave.

Sharp Street Memorial United Methodist Church will pay tribute to the late Rev. Howard Cornish and Dr. Edward Wilson on May 27, 11 a.m. The memorial service is dedicated to two men who have contributed to their church and Morgan State University. The Rev. John W. Coleman is pastor of Sharp Street.

The youth of Greater New Hope Baptist Church will sponsor revival services May 28 - June 1 at 2720 North Ave. The Rev. Dr. William Collins Jr., pastor of Antioch Baptist Church will be the speaker. Services will start at 7 p.m. and the Rev. Dr. Leonard E. Hicks is pastor.

The ladies of St. Luke United Methodist Church, Riggs Avenue and Gilmor Street will celebrate their 28th annual Women's Day on Sunday, May 27. The 11 a.m. speaker will be the Rev. Ms. Myrtle Travis Harrison, associate minister of Christ United Methodist Church.

At 3:30 p.m. the women of St. Luke will present a drama, "The Fruits of the Spirit." Mrs. Evelyn Sessions is chairman Mrs. Jessie Thomas is co - chairman and the Rev. James H. Smith is pastor.

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