Religion In Modern Life

Smallwood singers at Calvert Center

By Eddie King
AFRO Religion Editor

The Richard Smallwood Singers, who will be in concert 7 P.m. this Saturday, Nov. 3 at the Calvert Educational Center, have proven themselves to be one of the most formidable of gospel recording groups around.

It is one of the few recording groups which has managed to make a fusion of traditional and classical music appeal to a massive Christian audience.

One writer describes their music as a blend that astutely integrates and alternates the best features of percussive gospel piano with legato classical style piano playing to create a definite personal dynamism.

"In such classic hymns as "I Love the Lord, He Heard My Cry" and "Blessed Assurance, they become contemporary statements of spiritual affirmation that transcend the limiting confinement of musical genres and approach the sphere of the sublime. The Richard Smallwood Singers have captured the essence of these qualities in their unique style."

And that unique style has been carried practically all over the country. The singers have been heard and acclaimed by the National Press Club of Washington, D.C. and the French Embassy.

They were chosen to represent the United States at the Montreux Jazz Festival in Switzerland and at the Festival d'Automme a Paris in France in 1977.

Richard Smallwood, founder and arranger of the group, recalls the difficulty he had when trying to establish the group.

"It was kind of funny because I don't think anyone was seriously committed to the cause at the time, but I was. I wanted a group with a big sound, a small group. I didn't want a choir, just four or five members who could sound like one."

Richard's commitment to music goes back perhaps as far as childhood. The now 36-year-old musician can recall singing for his minister father before sermons at the age of four.

Around age eight or nine, he says, there was a growing ability to play the piano by ear. The interest was encouraged by his parents.

A graduate of Howard University, from which he received a degree in piano and voice, Smallwood acknowledges that his focus on classical music in college couldn't help but have an influence on the music he writes, but it has not hindered him at all. In fact, it has helped make his second album "Psalms," released in May, hold the number one spot in Billboard Magazine for 13 weeks.

"My music is not to be just for churches on Sunday morning. It is to be universal. We want to make a serious statement that will last even when we are gone. Our music must be appreciated as an art form as well as a spiritual form."

Members of the group include singers Jackie Ruffin, Lisa Burroughs, Carolene Evans, Dottie Jones and Wesley Boyd and musicians Tim Linzy Jeffrey Davis, Steven Ford and Richard Smallwood.

Other guests on the Saturday program will be Shirley Sidnor, Ricky Fowler, Victorian Specials, Julius Brockington and the Manna Mass Choir.

The Calvert Educational Center is located at 200 E. North Ave.

The Richard Smallwood Singers

Senior feast planned

By Eddie King
AFRO Religion Editor

Al Stewart and the Right to Life Givers are making one of their largest efforts ever this year in their attempt to help senior citizens.

A Christian non-profit organization designed for teaching and helping the disadvantaged—with a particular focus on senior citizens — the Right to Life Givers, are sponsoring a dinner for seniors on December 1 at Waters A.M.E. Church, Aisquith and Orleans Sts., 3 p.m.

The dinner is nothing unusual for the organization. They sponsor one every year, but this year is the first time they are attempting to feed a large number—200. Traditionally, some 30 to 50 seniors have benefited from the dinner.

Prior to the dinner treat on Friday, November 30, a 7:30 p.m. musical feast for the elderly will be sponsored at the church. Guests will include the Singing Deacons, First United Mass Choir, Recording King Chorale Ensemble, Katie Jackson and other local gospel talent.

Congressman Parren Mitchell (D-Md.) praised the efforts of the Right to Live Givers as one of the unique efforts to care for the elderly in the community.

Stewart said that there is every intention to hopefully increase the number of seniors who can be fed. Seniors interested in being on the guest list are encouraged to call Mary Anderson at 367-4931.

Anyone interested in volunteering service for the day or donating money or food should call a 24-hour number, 792-9595.

A host of politicians and dignitaries are expected to be present at the dinner.

SCLC head coming to Emmanuel Church

Dr. Joseph E. Lowery, president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, will be at Emmanuel Christian Community Church, 1210 W. Lanvale Street, on Saturday, November 17 at 8:30 a.m., the guest speaker for a prayer breakfast and rally.

Rev. Dr. Joseph Lowery

The Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) was founded by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and is continuing its struggle for equal opportunity and economic parity for minorities and women.

Dr. Lowery was in Atlanta and New Orleans for the founding of SCLC after the enjoining of the NAACP in Alabama. He organized the Alabama Civic Affairs Association, an affiliate of SCLC which led the movement there to desegregate public transportation and public accommodations, the hiring of black policemen and fought other discriminatory set-ups.

Presently, he is the pastor of Central United Methodist Church in Atlanta, Ga., the oldest and largest predominantly black United Methodist Church in Atlanta. Under his leadership, a 240-unit moderate low income housing development has been erected.

A native of Alabama, he studied at Knoxville College, Paine College, Wayne University and Paine Theological Seminary. Some additional studies were done at Garrett Theological Seminary and Chicago Ecumenical Institute.

Clark College in Atlanta awarded him the degree of Doctor of Divinity for outstanding ministry...in relating the Gospel to the totality of human need, dedicated service and leadership on a national and local level. for human betterment...awarded in 1975.

Dr. Lowery served as one of the vice presidents of SCLC until 1967 when he was nominated by Dr. King to serve as the chairman of the national board of directors, a position he held until 1977.

From 1968 to 1976, he served as a member of the Commission on Religion and Race of the United Methodist Church. In 1976, he was named a member of the United Methodist Committee on Relief of the Board of Global Ministries.

President of Enterprises Now, Inc., a minority business investment company which has helped numerous small businesses in Atlanta and the South, Dr. Lowery has served as an instructor at Emory University's Candler School of Theology and the Nursing School—courses in Black Theology and Black Awareness.

Having preached in various parts of the world, Dr. Lowery is married to the former married to the former Evelyn Gibson. They have three children.

Becoming active as president of the SCLC in 1967, he is quite active with many organizations. His popularity as a speaker has become overwhelming as students on campuses all over America have enjoyed this dynamic orator.

Dr. Sidney Daniels, pastor of Emmanuel C.C., will host the reverend for the day.

GOSPEL GRAPEVINES

By Eddie King

MYRNA SUMMERS will make her second return to Baltimore within two months at Mt. Pisgah C.M.E. Church, 1034 N. Fulton St. Sources indicate that Mrs. Summers will debut some of cuts to be on soon-to-be-released album.

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NOBEL PEACE PRIZE winner Bishop Desmond Tutu has been elected as the first black Anglican Bishop of Johannesburg. The Johannesburg assembly was split on the decision because of Tutu's apparent outspokeness on the apartheid system in South Africa.

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CALVERT EDUCATIONAL CENTER, where for years a number of gospel concerts have been performed, will have one last concert on Nov. 17 before the building comes to an end. Reports indicate that the Old Poly High School will be torn down.

Christian pageant beginning

The Second Annual Miss Christian Teen Pageant has been scheduled for March 9, 1985 at the Baltimore Convention Center.

Registration forms for the pageant are being accepted now and can be obtained by calling Gloria Temple, 687-4905.

The candidate must be 14 years of age or older and active with a local church.

The winner receives cash prizes, bouquet and inheritance of the Miss Christian Teen crown which will be bestowed by last year's crownreigning Miss, Barbara Schiedts.

Winner of the competition will travel around the state on behalf of the pageant and enjoy an unlimited amount of rewards in the form of free entrance to concerts and a well publicized nameline.

Last year's pageant at the Hyatt Regency brought together hundreds of Christians who were overwhelmingly shocked at the teen talent in the contest, talent which launched an over glorifying response to the pageant's first try.

Hosted by Pastor Naomi Durant, the 1984 Miss Christian Teen Pageant was a complete success.

Deadline for applications is January 1.

How to get Church news in the AFRO

For coverage of religious events or Placement of announcements in Metro Church Briefs, write to Eddie King, AFRO American NewsPapers, 628 N. Eutaw St, 21201 or call 728-8200, Ext. 275.

Metro Church Briefs

Enon Baptist

Women's Day Committee of Enon Baptist Church, Edmondson Ave. and Schroeder St., presents Central Baptist Church Dramatic Club under the direction of Betty Williams in "On the Way to the Slabtown District Convention." The play will be Sat., Nov. 17, 7 p.m. $6.

Headquarters We Need Prayer

Evang. Esther Melcher will be the speaker at We Need Prayer Headquarters, 912 N. Gilmor Street on Friday, Nov. 16, 7:30 p.m.

Metropolitan U.M.

A play, "1784 I Remember The Christmas Conference," will begin at 7:30 p.m. on Fri., Nov. 16 at Metropolitan United Methodist Church, Lanvale St. and Carrollton Ave. $3.

Bethel A.M.E.

Christian Singles of Bethel A.M.E. Church, 1300 Druid Hill Ave., will be having a forum on being single Sat., Nov. 17, 7 p.m. For further info. call Martin, 433-8958.

Rev. Dr. Charles William Butler

Macedonia Baptist

Macedonia Baptist Church School, Fremont and Lafayette Aves., will present a dinner theatre with an original play. "Deep Lake A River," on Sat., Nov. 17, 6 p.m. $5.

Ray of Hope Baptist

Men of Ray of Hope Baptist Church, 3000 Parkside Drive will hold a Prayer Breakfast at 9 a.m. to benefit the Annual Greater Harvest Day. Speaker will be Rev. Kenneth Bewins(Ray of Hope). $5.

Grace A.M.E.

Men's Day will be celebrated at Grace A.M.E. Church, 67 Winters Lane, on Sunday, November 18. 11 a.m. speaker will be Bro. James Favorte; 3 p.m. speaker, William Hudson.

Union Baptist

Rev. Dr. Charles William Butler will be the guest speaker at Union Baptist Church, 1219 Druid Hill Ave., on Sunday, November 18 for Men's Day. Dr. Butler is the president of the Progressive National Baptist Convention, Inc. and pastor of Detroit's New Calvary Baptist Church.

St. Cecelia

St. Cecilia's Roman Catholic Church, Windsor and Hilton Sts., will hold its annual Homecoming celebration on Sun., Nov. 18, 10 a.m.

Pamula Yerby

Leadenhall Baptist

Sunday, November 18 will mark the celebration of the 60th Annual Women's Day at Leadenhall Baptist Church, 1021 Leadenhall St. Dr. Muriel Johnson of New York will be guest speaker; 3 p.m. concert will be presented by Faith Baptist Church's Paige Choraleers.

St. Luke U.M.

Men of St. Luke United Methodist Church, 1100 N. Gilmor St., will celebrate their annual Men's Day on Sunday, November 18. 11 a.m. speaker will be Rev. James O'Neal (Southern Baptist); 3 p.m. speaker will be Rev. Daniel McClellan (Wildwood Parkway United Methodist).

Wayland Baptist

The 74th Annual Women's Day will be celebrated at Wayland

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— Metro Church Briefs —

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Baptist Church, 2300 Garrison Blvd., on Sun., Nov. 18. Rev. Cynthia Jones (Jones Tabernacle) will be the 7:45 a.m. speaker; Rev. Diane Gwyan (New Metropolitan Baptist), 10:45 a.m.; Mrs. Pam Yerby and Ronald Huff in concert at 3:30 p.m.

Waters A.M.E.

Waters A.M.E. Church, 417 Aisquith St., will observe its 81st Men's Day on Sun., Nov. 18, 3 p.m. Soprano Dorothy Johnson, Mezzo-soprano Yvette Matthews and tenor Samuel Shufford and members of the Coppin State College will be in concert for the occasion.

New Antioch Baptist

The Baptist Congress of Christian Education Youth Choir will perform in full concert at the New Antioch Baptist Church, Hoffman and Eden Sts, on Sunday, November 18, 4 p.m.

City Temple Baptist

City Temple Baptist Church, Dolphin and Estaw Sts., will feature Rev. Leo C. Wagner (Trinity Baptist) as the 11 a.m. speaker on Sun., Nov. 18.

Faith Baptist

Rev. William Johnson, Jr. of Union Baptist Church in Turner's Station will be the speaker at the 11 a.m. service for Faith Baptist Church, 833 N. Bond Street.

Providence Baptist

Women's Day at Providence Baptist Church, Pennsylvania and Lafayette Aves., will be Sunday, November 18. 7:45 and 11 a.m. speaker will be sister Mattie Robinson of D.C.; Morgan State University in concert at 3:30 p.m.

Union Baptist

Men's Day at Union Baptist, 1219 Druid Hill Ave., will feature the Welcome Travelers in concert on Sunday, Nov. 18, 6 p.m.

United Baptist

"Christian Women Looking For a Brand New Day" is the theme for Women's Day at United Baptist Church, 932 N. Broadway St., on S 18. 11 a.m. speaker, Rev. Sandra Phillips; 3:30 p.m Women's Day Choir in recital with a dramatization of God's Women in White.

Bible address

A Bible address on the subject "Modern Christianity In Astray From The Bible," will be presented Sun., Nov. 18, 2 Gwynndale Ave. William Link, guest lecturer.

Trinity Presbyterian

The Men's Choir of Douglas Memorial Christian Community Church will be in concert at Trinity Presbyterian Church, 3200 Walbrook Ave., on Sun., Nov. 18, 6 p.m.

Shiloh Community

Courtesy Circle of Shiloh Christian Community Church 2500 W. Lombard St., will celebrate their 27th anniversary on Sun., Nov. 18, 3:30 p.m.

St. Matthews Tabernacle

The Young Peoples' Pentecostal Union of St. Matthews Gospel Tabernacle will celebrate their 2nd anniversary on Sun., Nov. 18, 4 p.m. Church is located 1907 Rosedale St. Elder Dennis Golphin will be guest speaker.

Little Ark Baptist

Little Ark Baptist Church's Women's Day will be Sun., Nov. 18. 11 a.m. speaker, Rev. Sarah Johnson of Gillis Memorial; 3:30 p.m Mrs. Earleen Cypress. Church is located 1263 E. North Ave.

St. Edward's

An annual Christmas bazaar and spaghetti dinner will be sponsored at St. Edward's Catholic Church, Lafayette Ave. and Poplar Grove St., on Sunday, Nov. 25.

Bethel A.M.E.

Pastor's Aide Society of Bethel A.M.E. Church, 1300 Druid Hill Ave will have a rally day in the form of a baby contest on Sun., Nov. 25, 6 p.m.

St. Luke U.M.

United Methodist Women will celebrate their annual day on Sun., Nov. 25, 3:30 p.m. at St. Luke United Methodist, Riggs Ave. and Gilmor St., with guest speaker Mrs. Bland Powell.

St. Katherine Sienna

Ladies of St. Katherine Sienna, 1222 N. Luzerne Ave., are sponsoring a comedy play, "Chumby's last stand", and dinner at the Bolton Hill Dinner Theater, 1111 Park Ave., on Thursday, No 6:30 p.m. For further info. call 732-1692 or 563-2367.

Sisters in Solidarity

Sisters in Solidarity are sponsoring a breakfast and dialogue at Martin's West on Sat., Dec. 1, 8 a.m. Rev. Dr. Ray Ham Hammond will be special guests. For further info. call 523-4273

Zion Evangelical

Men of Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, Grindon and Mainfield Aves., a will sponsor an annual beef supper, bake sale and bazaar on Sat., Dec. 1, 3 p.m.

Enon Baptist

A Christmas bazaar and variety dinner will be given by Enon Baptist Church, Edmondson Ave. and Schroeder St., on Sat., Dec. 1 from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m.

St. Andrew's Episcopal

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 6515 Loch Raven B a bazaar and flea market on Fri., Nov. 30 (1-8 p.m from 10 a.m. until 4:30 p.m.

Miracle Deliverance

Doris Neal's gospel anniversary will be celebrated at the Miracle Deliverance Center, 3108 Ellamont St., on Dec. 2, 3:30 p.m. $5.

Brooklyn U.M.

The Baltimore Chapel Choir presents the Christmas the score, Handel's "The Messiah" at Sharp Street Memorial United Methodist Chur his and Eitting Sts., on Sun., Dec. 2, 3 p.m.

Brooklyn United Methodist Church, Fourth Street and Pontiac Ave., will present a sacred music concert on Sat., Dec. 8, 7 p.m.

St. Bernadine

Come and spend a day in New York and see the play, "Mama I Want To Sing," on Dec. 22 with St. Bernadine Catholic Church. Riders will leave Northwest Plaza 8 a.m. and leave New York that night at 10 p.m. For further info. call Alease Gray, 466-0467.

Bethel A.M.E.

Now is the time to start buying your fresh produce at reduced prices at Bethel A.M.E., 1300 Druid Hill Ave. Also interested persons can take advantage of the energy co-op. For more information, call 462-9747.

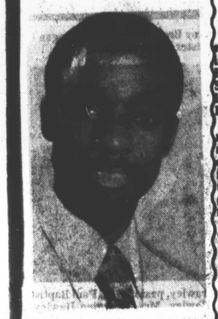
Howard Divinity School plans move to new site

By Charles A. Lewis

There is a certain feeling of warmth and dignity reflected in the hollowed premises of Howard University's Divinity School that has the imprint of its affable dean, Dr. Lawrence R. Jones.

The Rev. Jones exudes a natural gift for putting people at ease and this rapport is obvious among the staff (faculty and) shines throughout all phases of this great and unique school's religious center.

The clergyman said next year the Divinity school will move from its present quarters in Northeast Washington to the twenty two acres of the former Holy Name College just off South Dakota Avenue so it can accommodate a growing student body. He came to Howard from Union Seminary in New York in 1975 and stepped into this legendary shoes of Dr. Benjamin Mays, A theologian of World - wide repute. The school left the main campus some seven years ago.



MACK SIMPSON will direct the Chancel Choir of St. Mark United Methodist Church, Liberty Hights. Ave. and Garrison Blvd., on Sunday, November 18, in a concert. Special guest for the occasion is singer Winfley Phipps who will also be in a mini-concert.

This reflective churchman with office walls lined with plaques and awards is guided by the basic precepts of Christianity but believes religion has to adjust to the modern idiom and be aware of current events.

But he believes a "call" to the ministry is not restricted to any one denomination. Therefore the student body is comprised of Baptists, Methodists, Presbyterians, Pentacostals, Independents, in addition to foreign students with their various forms of worship. Also there is no racial or gender gap. The emphasis is on religious training, he pointed out.

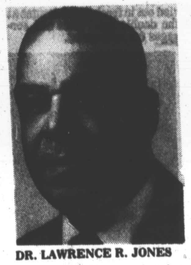
In preparation for the ministry, students are taught the Old Testament, church and ministry, biblical literature, systematic theology, preaching fundamentals and administrative duties.

Prospective religious leaders are also given basic training on how to deal with complex urban problems. The Dean said the idea is that the church deals with the entire individual rather than just salvation of the soul and he added: That the church is not an isolated, segregated entity shut off from the world on Sunday morning.

The school has developed a program that sends students to do field work in established churches to get practical experience in addition to theoretical training. Faculty members are also urged to circulate in community churches as well as himself to get first-hand knowledge of community affairs. The church in most instances, is the backbone of the black community and our students must learn how to deal with all situations, whether spiritual or mundane.

With a strong emphasis, he asserted that "integrity," should be a hallmark for any clergyman. A lack of integrity can easily be detected and might cause parishioners to lose faith in their leader.

Another aspect of a minister's character is that he must sincerely respect each indivual regardless of a social or economic status. Many individuals after their have been either rebuffed or ignored in civilian life. The minister must learn to integrate with his congregation and at times assuage wounded feelings.



DR. LAWRENCE R. JONES

The clergyman-teacher said his views about the ministry stem from early periods in his life when he used to preach funerals for inanimate objects His parents were also traditional christians in his home town in West Virginia and he has dealt with people all of his adult life.

He is a graduate of both West Virginia State and the University of Chicago and was involved in religious activites during army duty.

Dr. Jones believes television can be supplementary device for religious schools, especially video tapes, because material can be presented in a concrete and precise form and the visual is sometimes more effective than the spoken word.

The use of television also gives faculty members more exposure and lets them discuss various issues with other theologians which is always benefical. But with a good deal of animation he said television has often been misused on "commercial religion" that glorifies the minister instead of putting the emphasis on the scripture.

The main purpose seems to be on getting money with promises of all wishes being granted. The other equally abusive aspect of this preys on those unable to help themselves. The minister is supposed to be a servant of people, according to Dr. Jones, because the gospel is all about servitude and bringing good news to the poor, or is that an outmoded concept, he asked.

The school's mixed student is not by accident because the "open door" policy respects all forms of worship as well as the individual and his beliefs. Dean Jones observed that a foreign student may worship an object and yet be as devoted as any Christian.

The particular individual may call his form of worship by a different name, but he may be just as devout as anyone in another locality, he added: being different doesn't mean being inferior. He referred to Middle East and African forms of worship where Allah and the fetish are still prevalent.

He recalled a trip to Ghana and several other African countries where western cultures have had its impact, but many Africans retain their own form of worship with grace and dignity.

Religion calls for the faithful to reach out and understand and sometimes it calls for humility, but it doesn't call for ridicule or disdain, in the opinion Howard's "Man of the Cloth."

During the course of this interview it was annouced that Bishop Desmond M.D, Tutu has been awarded the Nobel Peace Prise this year. The valiest South African clergyman follows his countryman Albert Lutuli and our own Dr. Martin Luthur King, Jr. Bishop Tut is the general secretary of the South African Council of Churches. He later spoke at the Divinity School's convocation after being awarded an honorary doctorate of human letters.

Dr. Jones spoke with deep admiration when he said the Bishop has been asked to speak in recognition of his courageous struggle long before the Nobel announcement.

In reference to social injustices and oppression, Dean Jones said: You have to be faithful and loyal and do what you think God wants you to do. You don't have to be a spiritual athlete and you don't have to be perfect, but you have to ask what was the intent of my heart and God's grace will be sufficient and I may not always understand what happens to me personally, but I can still keep faith concluded Howard's premier religious leader.

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Mr. Maurice Murphy, Mus.D., Choirmaster-Organist
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 1984
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10:00 A.M. Holy Eucharist Sermon
The public is cordially invited to attend.

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10:50 A.M. ..... Morning Worship
MUSIC—Anthem "I Will Give Thanks."
Spiritual—"Ain't Got Time To Die"
3:30 P.M. ..... Reverend Harold Dobson & Congregation
St. Mark's Institutional Baptist Church
November 20, 7:30 p.m., Rev. Joseph Cater & Congregation, Garrison Avenue United Methodist Church
November 21, 7:30 p.m., Dr. George Crowley & Congregation, St. Paul Baptist Church.
November 22, 10:00 a.m., We fellowship with Leadenhall Baptist Church.
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Dr. Samuel Ray, Pastor

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8:00 A.M.
Mr. Arnold W. Howard
11:00 A.M.
Rev. Marion C. Bascom
MUSIC
8:00 Anthems
Chancel Choir
The Heavens Are Declaring
—Ludwig Van Beethoven
Come and Go to that Land
—arr. Olive Williams
11:00 Anthems
Brother James's Air (arranged)
—arr. Gordon Jacob
We Are Climbing Jacob's Ladder
—arr. R. Nathaniel Dett