THE LIVING CHURCH

Mighty Clouds of Joy bring gospel to Bethel

AFRO photo by Roman Hankewycz

MIGHTY CLOUDS OF JOY had members and friends of Bethel AME rocking and shouting at the church on Oct. 12 when they sung "Take Me To the Water" and "God Is Not Dead." There was standing room only at Bethel for the gospel show that was sponsored by the Men's Day committee.

By Adrienne Manns
AFRO Staff Writer

The Mighty Clouds of Joy, featuring their new tenor, Paul Beasley, moved a packed Bethel A.M.E. church audience last Friday night with a fervent, but polished hour of gospel mmusic.

"The Couds," who have been together for 19 years, completed a long evening of singing and testifying that included three other all-male vocal groups: the Harrison J. Bryant Brotherhood Choir of Bethel, the Keys of Faith, and Tommy Roberts and the Gospel Leaders.

The program was sponsored by the Men's Day committee of Bethel. Last week, the men of Bethel sponsored a job-a-thon and will be having a male fashion show at the church this month.

The third annual banquet will be held Friday, Nov. 9 at the Holiday Inn, 301 Lombard St., Attorney William Murphy will be the speaker andSen. Clarence Mitchell will serve as toastmaster.

"The Clouds" lead singer, Joe Ligon, in introducing Beasley, said he had been talking to him about singing with them for the last three years. Beasley recently left the popular recording group the Gospel Keynotes.

Othermembers of "The Clouds" are Johnny Martin, Elmore Franklin, and Richard Wallace.

Mr. Beasley, whose piercing falsetta is considered unmatched among male vocalists electrified the congregation. "No one can sing the way this man can sing," Ligon said. "And he is also a fine prson."

Ligon, in keeping with the spirit of the evening, related a period in the group's career when he started singing without asking God for guidance. He said this was a low point in his life and that he now makes sure he prays before each of their performances.

The Clouds skillfully mixed new songs with the traditional, singing among others, "I'm Blessed," "I Came to Jesus," "We're Going to Have a Good Time," "Take Me to the Water," and "God Is Not Dead."

They are scheduled to return to Baltimore March 30 for a concert at the Civic Center, highlighted by James Cleveland and the Cleveland Singers.

JOYFUL CLAPPING — Standing at their seats, those who attended the Mighty Clouds of Joy gospel show at Bethel AME Church made a joyful noise by clapping their hands to the gospel music.

AFRO Photo by Roman Hankewycz

LITTLE HANDS RAISED — Even one of Bethel AME Church's youngest members found it hard to remain seated while the noted gospel group, The Might Clouds of Joy, perfbrmed at the church on Friday, Oct. 12.

Churchman's club fall meeting Oct. 24

The Churchman's Club of the Diocese of Maryland annual meeting will be held Oct. 24, 7 p.m. at the Belvedere Hotel with the Right Rev. John Thomas Walker as speaker.

The Churchman's Club traces its origin to a suggestion made before the Diocesan Convention of The Episcopal Church in 1897 by Bishop Paret.

Anxious to break down what he called "exclusive parochialism," the Bishop recommended the establishment of an organization which would serve to bring together regularly in friendly and informal association laymen of all the parishes of the Diocese.

The club holds a fall and spring dinner meeting each year and, in addition, is a joint sponsor with the Brotherhood of St. Andrew of a corporate communion and breakfast on Washington's Birthday. While the club is primarily social in outlook, its activities and interest center on religious matters.

The club is now in its 83rd consecutive year, and it is the objective of the council to steadily increase the membership and to have good representation in every parish. Any baptized layman or laywoman who is a regular attendant of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the Diocese is eligible for membership.

Rev. Walker was the first black student at the Virginia Theological Seminary and was ordained a deacon and priest and in 1955 he became rector of St. Mary's Church, a white parish in a racially changing neighborhood.

Rev. Walker's long involvement with the church overseas began in 1961 when he directed a summer training program for the EPISCOPAL Church's Executive Council, in Nicaragua, Guatemala nd Costa Rica. He also led conferences for those programs i Puerto Rico and Mexico.

His continuing concern for problems of the urban centers of this country led him to join with other city bishops of the Episcopal Church in the formation of the Urban Bishops Coalition of which he is chairman. The group bas had hearings in major cities througout the United States and Panama and seeks action from the church and the government on problems which congront out cities.

The Rev. John Thomas Walker

Women's Day Sunday at Zion Baptist

The women of Zion Baptist Church, Caroline and Lanvale Street will observe Women's Day on Sunday, Oct. 21.

The Rev. Moses Williams, pastor of Zion will be the 11 a.m. speaker. Following the morning service dinner will be served. The theme for Women's Day is, "Women Fulfilling Their Christian Responsibility To Children Trhoughout The Wrodl.". Mrs. Roberta Williams is president and Mrs. Mary Nicholsonne is program chairman.

Mrs. Bernice Branford Lewis, a Douglass High School teacher and an active member of Macedonia Baptist Church, Fremont Avenue and Lanvale Street will be the 3 p.m. speaker.

She will be speaking on, "The Spiritual Woman versus The Natural Woman." Last Sunday, Mrs. Lewis directed the Women's Day choir at Providence Inspirational Baptist Church.

In 1974, Mrs. Lewis was nominated for the outstanding teacher award. She has been featured in the National Observer and has written many poems, songs and essays which have appeared in local and national magazines.

Mrs. Lewis is a member of numerous civic, community and social organizations and is the director of the Clayton Chorus, church school teacher and other organizations in the Church.

Mrs. Bernice B. Lewis

Metro Church Briefs

"Women of Faith" is the theme for the 28th annual Women's Day on Sunday, Oct. 21 at St. James United Methodist Church, Lexington and Monroe St. The Rev. Geroge A. Stansbury is minister. Mrs. Evelyn Stansbury and Ms. Dorothy Townes are chairpersons.

Member of Harlem Park Community Baptist Church Choir will sponsor a recital on Oct. 21, 3:30 p.m. at the church, 612-18 Gilmor St. Miss Wanda Tyler is president, Lewis Thompson is treasurer and the Rev. Raymond Kelly Jrl, is pastor.

City Temple of Baltimore Baptist Church members will observe the ninth anniversary of their church on Oct. 28, 6 p.m. by presneting the Temple Choirs in Concert.

Kenneth M. Dean Jrl, will direct the choir and Richard J. Tilghman is organist. The Rev. W.W. Payne is pastor.

The Edwards' and Cobb's Women's day Team of Providence Baptist Church, 4200 Liberty Heights Ave., will presenr the Keene Street Theatre Group in "Tambourines To Glory," on Oct. 27, 7:30 p.m. at the church. Mrs. Minnie Edwards, is chairperson and the Rev. Marcus Wood is pastor.

Women's Day will be observed Oct. 21, 10 a.m. at the Church of SKT. Katherine of Alexandria, Presstman and Division St. Major Norma Roberts of the Salvation Army will be the speaker. The theme is "Women's Concern for Children of the Future."

The women of Saint Gregory The Great, 1542 Gilmor St., will observe Women's Day on Oct. 21 at their 12:15 Mass. The Rev. Phoebe Coe, the first woman priest, an Episcopalian at a downtown church will be the guest speaker. Father Iamien Napela is pastor.

Immaculate Conception Church, 416 Mosher St., will hold its thir annual fall festival on Oct. 21, 1 p.m. until 7 p.m. in the church hall on Druid Hill Avenue and Mosher Street.

Attractive prizes for the games of chance, flea market tables, food and a raffle for a television are just a few of the attractions. Items to be donated or displayed should be turned in at the rectory on 416 Mosher St., or call Father Menig, 523-0809.

MSTA officials call state teacher pension plan 'poor'

Teachers in Maryland are being advised by the Maryland State Teachers Association (MSTA) not to change from the current retirement system to the state's new pension plan.

The new pension plan which is less expensive for the state, but provides lower benefits to the teachers, was vigorously debated but approved by the 1979 General Assembly as a long-range means of saving the state money.

At a seminar this week at the MSTA's three-day convention, officials pointed out several differences which they feel puts the plan in a "poor" category.

Those differences include substantially lower benefits, severe limits on retirement allowance adjustments and more stringent eligibility requirements for membership and creditable services. The plan, however, does not require, in most cases, contribution by its members.

The beginning annual retirement allowance under the present system is $6,727 or $727.25 a month in comparison to the state's new pension system's annual allowance of $5,079 or $423.25 a month. The current retirement system benefits exceed the pension plan by 71.8 percent.

However, teachers as well as all state employees who are also affected by the new plan do have the option to remain in the current program or transfer when it goes into effect Jan. 1, 1980.

Those who are hired after Jan. 1, 1980 will automatically be enrolled in the new plan. Members who transfere intothe new programwill not be able to change later.

MSTA representatives anticipate that about 40 precent of the teachers enrolled in the retirement system will transfer to the new plan.

V. Thomas Gray, assistant executive director for legislation, commented on the plan by saying, "The state used to be able to hold its head up high and get the cream of the crop because it had one of the best plans in the country.

"But now it can no longer sell itself with the benefits it provides to get educators for our system."

Gray also pointed out that the decrease in retirement benefits under the new plan may be a deterrent to those students currently enrolled in college who will be considering teaching careers after Jan. 1, 1980.

City Wide Revival,
Sponsored By:
A.M.E. Ministerial Alliance
October 21-26, 1979
Inspiration Service— 12:00 noon Daily
Prayer Service—7:30 p.m.
Nightly Worship Service—8:00 p.m.
Rev. Gregory Edmonds, Evangelist
Kinston, N.C.
Hosted By:
Allen A.M.E. Church
1130 W. Lexington St.
Baltimore, Maryland

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Testimony begins at 7:30. Come and bring a friend.
REV. C. C. ALLEXANDER, Pastor

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Corner Pennsylvania Ave. and Dolphin Street
11:00 A.M.—Worship Message
By Dr. Marshall H. Strickland
Music by: Cion Echoes Combined Men and Women's Chours.
3:30 P.M.—Anniversary of the Usher Board of Pennsylvania Ave. A.M.E. Zion
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DR. MARSHALL H. STRICKLAND, Pastor

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This is a new day, but with age comes Wisdom. Now is the time, for life is like a key board, if you play the right tune. Now, are you listening to the right tune?
Life is also like a yard stick—how many inches have you used up in life? This is the question of ages.
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Someone must care, Someone must listen.
"Find Yourself" is the topic of the day.
Voice and hands that speak for God, for God Is The Divine Essence.
Autumn comes to us all as time passes by . .
Dial my number
Prayer Line 889-2653

SHARP ST. MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 21, 1979
9:30 A.M. — Church School
11:00 A.M.—Morning Worship.
Rev. John W. Coleman, Minister
Rev. Arthur White, Assistant Minister

St. James Episcopal Church
Lafayette Square
Baltimore, Maryland
8:00 A.M. Holy Communion
9:00 A.M. Church School
10:30 A.M. Choral Eucharist Sermon
The Rev. Donald O. Wilson, Rector
Mr. A. Maurice Murphy, Organist
The Public Is Cordially Invited To Attend

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James S. Hammond

54th Annual Men's Day
Sunday, October 21, 1979
8:00 A.M. Worship Service (Mini-Concert by The Men's Choir)
11:00 A.M. Dr. Vernon McDaniel, Guest Speaker
Member, Board of School Commissioners Escambia County, Florida
Ye Watchers and ye Holy Ones — Archibald Divison
I Wan' To Be Ready — William Dawson
8:00 A.M. Minin Concert
On Jordans Stormy Banks I Stand
The Lone, Wild Bird
God Is My Song
The God Who Gave Us Life
Drinkin' Of The Wine
In His Care-o

OPPOSES KHOU KHOMEINI

Iranian socialist says blacks have 'moral authority'

By James M. Abraham
AFRO Staff Writer

"People all over the world know what blacks in the United States have suffered," said Farhad Nouri, an Iranian dissident, "and when blacks speak about human rights, you have the moral authority to do so."

Nouri was in Baltimore during the week of the Oct. 7, as part of a tour of the western hemisphere to free several of his fellow workers. Nouri is a leader of the Iranian Socialist Workers Party, an organization which participated in the February revolution which toppled the Shah of Iran.

But since the revolution, Nouri's party feels that they have only exchanged one government of oppression for another.

"70 per cent of the banks in my country are still under foreign control," said Nouri. "There's been no land reform, it's against the law to organize unions or have strikes; the problems which caused the revolution have not been solved."

Nouri is touring the world in an attempt to win international support for fourteen of his fellow socialist party members who have been sent to jail for "subversive activity" by the Moslem government of Iran. In May, 1979, fourteen Iranian Socialist Workers Party members were snatched off a street in Ahwaz, a city in southern Iran, and sent to jail without a trial.

The two women in the group were sentenced to life imprisonment and the 10 men received the death sentence. Nouri states that the only reason the death sentences have not been carried out is that his organization was able to drum up enough public support for the party members to stay their executions.

The members were arrested for publishing and distributing "Khatar," a socialist newspaper which, according to Nouri, published the truth about the Iranian government since the revolution.

Nouri describes the revolution as basically a class one.

"Only forty per cent of the citizens of Iran are Persian, yet they still control the country. They have a definite bias toward the Arabs and Kurds who also live in Iran."

Citing the current war being fought by Khoeini's regime against the Kurds, a small minority population in the north of Iran, Nouri pointed out, "It's only another example of the old divide and conquer mentality."

Nouri also pointed out that in southern Iran, home of a sizable Arab minority, over 5,000 Arabs have been imprisoned by the present government.

Nouri is being supported in his struggle by Amnesty International, a world-wide organization opposed to ill-treatment and torture of prisoners. His organization also has the support of various trade unions throughout the world.

When asked what he expected when he returned hom to Iran, (he will return in late October), Nouri answered, "I will probably be arrested. If so, I hope by supporters will be able to get me out."

Ron Dellums speaks at Morgan conference

Rep. Ron Dellums, D-Calif will be the featured guest speaker at an all-day conference scheduled at Morgan State University today, Friday, Oct. 19.

The conference is sponsored by the Institute for Urban Research of Morgan's School of Graduate Studies and will focus on the urban community.

Dellums topic is "The Public and Urban Issues in the Coming Decade" at 10:30 a.m. in the McKeldin Center ballroom. A question and answer period will follow.

At the conclusion of the 1978 General Assembly, Morgan was authorized to begin five urban oriented programs. As part of the School of Graduate Studies, the Institute for Urban Research is designed to serve as an advanced studies group, an organized research unit with priority to conduct a research program on urban problems.

Rep. Ron Dellums

The Institute will also be able to provide research information and statistics to the community.

Clara Adams, dean, Graduate Schools of Morgan will conclude the program at 3 p.m. and will address "The Relevance of Social History — A Perspective on the Urban Community."

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9:15 A.M. Church School
New Members Class
10:30 A.M. Open Heart Service
11:00 A.M. Morning Worship
Sermon by Rev. Richard Hatch
Pyles Sands Grove Baptist Church
Bennettsville, S.C.
1:00 P.M. Rev. Arthur Lockett
Pride of Cecil Co. Usiq
Baptist Church
Seat Pleasant, Md.
Chorus Competition
3:00 P.M. RH. and New Members Class
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MEN'S DAY CELEBRATION
You are invited to attend Men's Day worship with us on Sunday, October 21, 1979.
9:45 A.M.—CHURCH SCHOOL
Bro. Aaron Clark, Superintendent
11:00 A.M.—WORSHIP SERVICE
Preacher:
Rev. Dr. Emmett C. Burns, Jr.
Regional Director NAACP
and former Pastor of
New Hope Baptist Church,
Jackson Mississippi.

PRE-MEN'S DAY BREAKFAST
Saturday, October 20, 1979 8:30 A.M.
Speaker: Rev. John R. Bryant,
(Pastor Bethel AME Church)
Brothers William Brent
Edward Mason and Anthony Lewis
Co-Chairmen
DR. BENJAMIN S. FOUST, Pastor
DR. BURNS JR.

LEGAL NOTICES

HOUSING AUTHORITY OF BALTIMORE CITY

Notice of Letting

The Housing Authority of Baltimore City will receive sealed bids in duplicate for the rehabilitation of 1361 Glendon Street, 906 & 1913 Whitelock Street and 1931 Druid Hill Avenue VH 26-79 until 1:00 P.M. (Eastern Standard Time) on 10-31-79 in the office of the Chief of Finance and Accounting, Room 474, Saratoga Street Municipal Building, 222 East Saratoga Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21202, at which time and place all bids will be publicly opened and read.

Proposed forms of contract documents, including plans and Technical Specifications are on file and may be examined and obtained by persons who have been prequalified by the Contractors Qualification Committee, City of Baltimore, or the Executive Director of the Housing Authority of Baltimore City. These contract documents are available at the office of the Director of Construction and Buildings Inspection, Room 270, Saratoga Street Municipal Building, 222 East Saratoga Street, Baltimore, Maryland.

Interested parties may obtain information concerning requirements and procedures for prequalification from the Contractors Qualification Committee, Room 1000, Municipal Building, or by calling the Housing Authority of Baltimore City, 396-3586.

The successful prequalified bidder will be required to furnish satisfactory performance and payment bonds within ten (10 days after the date of the letter of notification of award of the contract.

Attention is called to the fact that payrolls must be filed with the Housing Authority and not less than the prevailing salaries and wages as set forth in the Specifications must be paid on this project. The Contractor must insure that the employees and applicants for employment are not discriminated against because of their race, creed, color, religion, sex, or national origin.

The successful bidder may be required to prepare and submit an Affirmative Action Program regarding the employment of minority job applicants. Details are set forth in the Contract Documents under 41 CFR 60-4.3(a) "Notice of Requirement for Affirmative Action to Ensure Equal Employment Opportunity (Executive Order 11246)" and 41 CFR 60-4.3 (a) "Standard Federal Equal Employment Opportunity Construction Contract Specifications (Executive Order 11246)" — In addition, prior to the signing of a contract, he must submit a preliminary statement of work force needs, where known. Where not known, this information must be supplied prior to the signing of any contract between the contractor and his subcontractors.

The Housing Authority of Baltimore City reserves the right to reject any or all bids or to waive any informalities in the bidding.

No bid shall be withdrawn for a period of thirty (30) days subsequent to the opening of bids without the consent of the Housing Authority of Baltimore City.

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Though a B.S. degree in Engineering is preferred, a background with less formalized education may be acceptable. For instance: technical school education, machine shop experience or past experience in toolmaking, or layout inspection is desirable. Of course, an ability to understand complicated drawings and specifications is a must.
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