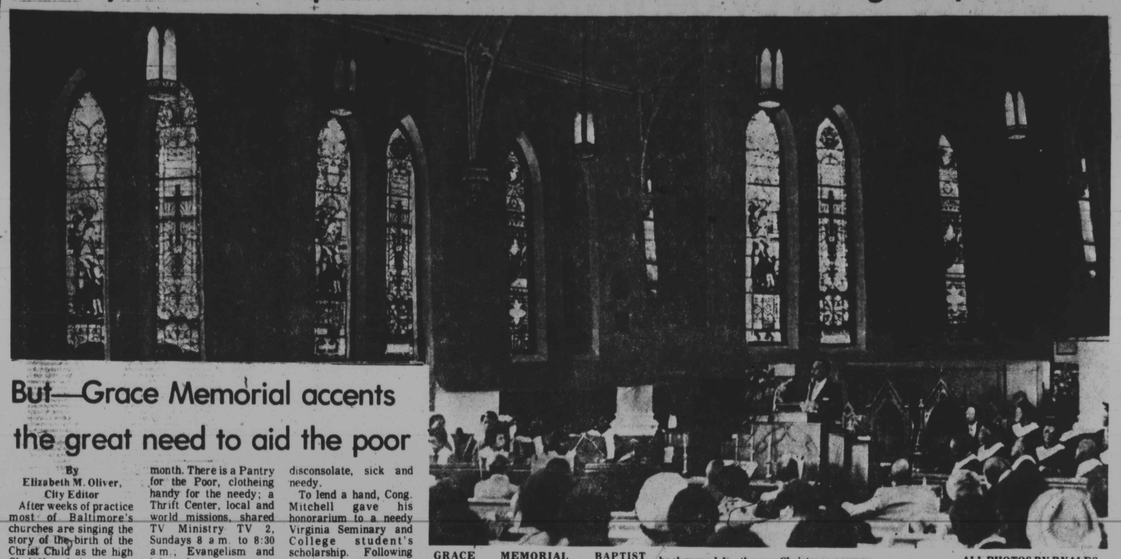
City churches open the Yuletide Season with songs of praise



GRACE MEMORIAL BAPTIST CHURCH'S stained glass windows picturing the life of Christ formed the background for the pre-Christmas sermon delivered by guest speaker Congressman Parren J. Mitchell.

ALL PHOTOS BY RYALES

But—Grace Memorial accents the great need to aid the poor

By Elizabeth M. Oliver, City Editor

After weeks of practice most of Baltimore's churches are singing the story of the birth of the Christ Child as the high Christian holy season dawns.

However, in an era of a threadbare economy and small hope of the plenty of the old fashioned Yuletide, most parishes are helping the needy. Striving to see that each neighbor is fed, that each child has a toy and warm clothes, the occasion magically takes on the real meaning of Christmas.

So it is with Grace Memorial Baptist Church in East Baltimore. As the congregation opened its Yule season Sunday, Congressman Parren J. Mitchell took the pulpit to accent the need for every person to take care of his brother.

Minister Dr. A. C. D. Vaughn and his flock had long since seen to that. The Food Co - op is the Saturday before the Second Sunday of each month. There is a Pantry for the Poor, clothing handy for the needy; a Thrift Center, local and world missions, shared TV Ministry TV 2, Sundays 8 a.m. to 8:30 a.m., Evangelism and blood pressure screening.

The noon Wednesday Prayer Hour is for special blessings for the disconsolate, sick and needy.

To lend a hand, Cong. Mitchell gave his honorarium to a needy Virginia Seminary and College student's scholarship. Following the pre - Christmas program, the congregation held a reception to welcome guests and rung in the holiday spirit.

HERALDING THE COMING of Christmas, the highest holy Christian holiday, are members of the Grace Memorial Baptist Church Gospel Choir (left) Front row, Ava Spencer, Irene Fowlkes, Susie Ross, Veronica Franklin. Back Row — Dorothy Williams, Janine Taylor and Ruth Spencer. (RIGHT) Senior Choir — Back Row — Marie Shannon, Beverly Wilson, Carrie Moore, Irma Epps Second Row — Pearl Chester, Mildred Turner, Elizabeth Reed, Almeta Hardy. Front Row — Lewis Shannon, Lawrence Turner, Sandy Montgomery, Carrie Kearney and Martha Alston.

OFFICERS assembled for the reception included Kevin Dotson, Oscar Suggs, Chester Northington, John Gaither, Sandy Montgomery, Mrs. Carrie Moore, Mrs. Susie Ross, Johnie I. Bowles, Howard Radcliffe, Dr. Vaughn, Cong. Mitchell and Del. Troy Brailey, the speakers; Wadell Tate, Frank Jeter, Julius Moddleton, Lewis Shannon and Corrogan Vaughn.

PASTOR'S FAMILY — REV. DR. VAUGHN, his wife, children, his mother and all relatives within miles aroundwere present to greet Congressman Mitchell — Dodd Perry, Jennifer Perry, Rev. and Mrs. Vaughn, Cassandra Vaughn, Cong. Mitchell, Corrogan Vaughn, Mrs. Mildred Vaughn, Angela Vaughn, Elizabeth Gaither, Atiba Wallace, Gwen Hicks, Sherrie Wallace, Lynnette Vaughn and Geraldine Perry.

THE YOUTH DEPARTMENT hosting the reception included Lynette Vaughn, Kevin Dotson, Anndell Lawrence, Ava Spencer, director; Cassandra Vaughn, Linda Bennett, Corregon Vaughn, Cong. Mitchell, Darrell Wilson, Dr. Vaughn, Carmen Alston, Irene Warker, Chris Miller, Sasha Bullock, Marlene Garris and Alfred Wiggins.

BLACK MADONNA — Mary and the new-born Christ Child have been pictured by many artists of many nations around the world as each seeks to portray the hallowed moment. Here is one by Duke Martin, owner of Sampsons, who displays many works of art on the walls of the old soulfood establishment, now a Baltimore landmark.

OUR WORLD

★PARTYLINE ★PACESETTERS ★PEOPLE

Local NAACP hosts 'Evening of Distinction'

By Pattie Hodges
AFRO Women's Editor

The Baltimore NAACP hosted "An Evening Of Distinction" Sunday, Dec. 13 from 5 until 9 p.m. at the Ritz, 28 Light St.

It was an unqualified success — both from the fun and the membership angle.

The main purpose being to boost NAACP membership.

Admission to the affair included the price of an NAACP membership.

Emcee for the evening was Jerry Scott of Radio Station WWIN. Guests enjoyed cocktails, munchies, lively party patter and dancing.

Natalie Carter, local actress, presently appearing in James Baldwin's Center Stage production "The Amen Corner" took time out to support the group by opening the evening with dynamic poetic drama — "Excerpts From Speeches of Sojourner Truth" and later shared an original verse (which had been passed on to her by her grandmother) titled "Whatcha Gonna Do With Your Mind?"

This presentation included audience participation, lending itself to what blacks are going to do with their minds. She gave a superb performance.

Special highlight of the evening was a fashion show, during which local NAACP members and media representatives modeled their own outfits.

Commentator for the fashion show was Penny Demps, president, Penn-Libra Productions.

Modeling were Fred Mason, (Ritz Staff); Bessie Reed, Lawrence Outlaw, chair, NAACP Membership Committee; Tia Thompson, Calvin Thaniel, Ralph Fuller, Toussaint Webb, Pattie Johnson, Sheila Tucker and Barbara Cooper, local NAACP Program Director.

MODELING FOR MEMBERSHIPS for the local NAACP chapter during that organization's "Evening of Distinction" held at the Ritz, 28 Light St., Sunday, Dec. 13 are (L to R): Tia Thompson, Lawrence Outlaw and Bessie Reed, all NAACP members and Fred Mason, of the Ritz staff.

AFRO Photos by Roman Hankewycz

Special hosts sponsoring the evening were Sheila Tucker, Community Service Committee; Oscar Bugg, producer; Community Services, WBAL Radio and Barbara Cooper.

Guests also brought canned goods for the needy for Christmas, to be donated through the AFRO-AMERICAN Newspapers Mrs. Santa Project.

The NAACP's Lillie Mae Jackson Youth Council was responsible for this charitable aspect of the affair.

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GUESTS TURNED NAACP MEMBERS who were caught enjoying the scene are (left panel, L to R): Mrs. Yvonne Miller, Mrs. Pat Blackwell and Miss Bonnie Armstead; (Right Panel, L to R): Ms. Yolanda Speights, Ms. Karen White and Ms. Karen Lewis. (The latter three are all Morgan U students).

Partyline

By Pattie Hodges
AFRO Women's Editor

The third gala Masquerade Ball, hosted recently by Vernon L. Ross and Joel Holman was a smashing success.

Held at The Cloister's Children's Museum, Brooklandville, MD the affair was attended by nearly 300 guests who came not only from Baltimore, but from Washington, DC, New York, Philadelphia and Atlanta, GA.

The gates of the Museum opened at 10 p.m. and the guests really outdid themselves this year. Their costumes for the Ball were absolutely fabulous.

The first and second - time - around menu consisted of, for the first — assorted cheese and cracker platters, beautifully decorated fruit and fresh vegetable trays with special creamed cheese dip, and for the second — delectable crab balls, fried chicken wings, turkey salad, deviled eggs, potato salad and two artfully carved watermelon fruit floats.

Guests continuously sipped on white, rose and burgundy wines and a homemade fruit punch that flowed from two fountains — oooh, delicious.

Gifts for the most creative, prettiest and ugliest costumes were 20 - inch gold ocar trophies, especially designed by host Vernon Ross.

Second place winners received fifth bottles of Moselle white wine and third place winners got mini - bottles of champagne.

Garnering first place for the ugliest costume was Eric Gee, who came as "Halfman - Halfwoman"; first place for the prettiest went to Towana Smith, "The Lady in Silver."

Ms. Marcia Hawkins and Irvin Dett of Dett Set Beauty Salon who came as "The Golden Space Couple" placed first in the 'Most Creative Costume' category.

Other outstanding costumes included the "Roman Soldier, worn by Wayne Davis; "Butterfly", worn by Ralph Spencer; "Shirley Temple", worn by Ms. Lisa Randolph; "A Clown", by Wayne Gray.

William McGlarkner was unique as an "African Warrior", while Mrs. Tomasine Kirkland was splendid as 'An Artist."

Also outstanding were Ms. Linda Mooney as "Little Girl;" Mrs. Marcia Miller as "China Doll"; Mrs. Lynn Shipley as "A Genie"; Edwin Smith as a "Warrior Dancer"; Airik King as "An Egyptian"; Timmy Taylor as "Buck Rogers Star" and Ms. Joyce Wright as "Princess Diane".

Hostesses were Ms. Karen Evans, Allison Key, Kelly DeGross, Monica Scott, Stacey Ross, Brenda Carter, and Monique Walker.

They were dressed in purple and black mini - length dresses with varying geometric designs cut in them and trimmed in boar feathers.

Everyone had a ball at the ball, dining, sipping, rapping and dancing till the wee hours.

Hosts Vernon L. Ross who had painted himself and came as "The Bronze Idol"; co - hostJoel Holman came as "The Prince of Darkness." Both set the tone for a fun evening.

Robert Umphery retires

Recently, a festive, fast paced celebration was held in recognition of the Retirement of E. Robert Umphery, former Assistant Superintendent, Division of Educational Services, Baltimore City Public Schools.

Those who attended the affair, which took place at the Forum, paid tribute to an educator who had completed 39 years in the Baltimore City Public School System, having served as a classroom teacher, supervisor, assistant principal and a central office administrator.

Umphery's educational training and development included graduation with honors, both from Frederick Douglass High School and Coppin State College, and receipt of a Masters of Arts in Administration and Supervision from New York University.

Additional courses of study were pursued at the Johns Hopkins University, New York University and the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

His educational preparation and professional assignments equipped him to ably render service on many committees, including the Mayor's Inaugural Committee; the Maryland Food Committee and the March of Dimes Walk - A - Thon Committee.

Agency boards on which he has served are the Baltimore Goodwill Industries, Inc.; the American Red Cross, the United Fund of Central Maryland; CICHA and the National Foundation of the March of Dimes.

The evening began with a pleasant cocktail hour during which guests greeted the honoree and moved to a beautiful table laden with delectable hors d'oeuvres.

Introductions were made to Mr. Umphery and his wife, Mrs. Mary Umphery, by Dr. Maxine J. Wood, Coordinator of the Program Liaison Office, Baltimore City Public Schools and Chairperson of the celebration.

Preceding dinner the Rev. Marion Bascom offered grace.

After dinner, the celebration continued as Miles Harrison presided with dispatch and with well received humor.

Mrs. Patelle G. Harris, Associate, Program Liaison Office, Baltimore Public Schools gave the occasion, and presentations were made by Baltimore City School System officials Lewis H. Richardson, Jr., Deputy Superintendent, Bureau for Fiscal and Business Management, Dr. Kathleen Luchs, Regional Superintendent, Northwest Region, Malcolm Dutterer, Coordinator, Office of Student Relations and Dr. Maxine J. Wood who also read an original poem.

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Third Masquerade Ball hosted at The Cloisters

IN GALA COSTUMES at the Third Annual Masquerade Ball hosted by Vernon L. Ross and Joel Holman at The Cloisters Children Museum recently are (top panel, L to R): Ms. Darcel Bishop (Peter Pan); Courtney Anderson (J. R., the Cowboy) and his date Ms. Judy Gray (Cat Lady) and Vernon L. Ross, host, (The Bronze Idol); (Bottom panel, L to R): Ms. Louise Toleto of New York (Space Lady), Clarence Reynolds (Prince Charming); host Joel Holman (The Prince of Darkness) and first place winner for the prettiest costume, Ms. Tawana Smith of Washington, DC. (Lady in Silver).