Religion In Modern Life

Gospel show to open St. Martin Spiritual Churches of Christ convocation



Inez Andrews



Father P. H. Franklin



Father Charles G. Hayes

By Eddie King
AFRO Staff Writer

Not every church's convocational kick-off is as impressive as the one that's going to be held Sunday for the opening of the Sixth Annual Convocation of the St. Martin Spiritual Churches of Christ being held in Baltimore this week.

Beginning Sunday, August 19 and ending Friday, August 24, the convocation will open with a musical extravaganza at the Baltimore Civic Center.

Featured guest for the musical will be singer Inez Andrews, one of the country's leading gospel artists, currently number three on the Billboard charts in record sales.

Her renditions of "Oh Mary Don't You Weep," "Lord Don't Move My Mountain," and her own "Just For Me" has made her one of the most duplicated artists around the country.

Spearheading this event will be another impressive gospel artist, Dr. Charles G. Hayes and the Recording Choir of the Cosmopolitan Church of Prayer of Chicago, Ill., nationally known for hits like "Jesus Can Work It Out," a song that's riding the gospel circuit high these days.

One of Shirley Ceaser's old sidemates, Mrs. Jewell Griffin of D.C., will also be there singing her heart out.

Included Baltimore artists on the program are the Recording King Chorale Ensemble and the Whispering Spirits. Also performing will be the Mass Choir of the national body of the St. Martin Spiritual Churches of Christ.

Presiding Bishop P.H. Franklin, who started the St. Martin Churches nearly 40 years ago in Dallas, Tx. and who now pastors at the headquarters church in Baltimore at 2118 Madison Ave., will preside over the service and the week's convocation.

While much of the convocation will consist of nightly services beginning at 7:30 p.m. at the headquarter's church throughout the week, other business matters for the future of the church will be discussed.

One major issue will be the discussion of the construction and development of more churches. The possibility of opening a religious school will also be high on the agenda.

Finalizing a format for scholarships will be discussed at the business meetings and the direction in which the church will go will take its place among the most important matters of concern.

Andrae Crouch 12 years later still going strong in music and in faith

By Eddie King
AFRO Staff Writer

Just who is Andrae Crouch has never been a question hard to answer. Almost any soul on the street can attest to the fact that he's the award winning gospel singer that has contributed perhaps the most in the growth of listenership to religious music.

Talk could go on for days about the achievements of the acclaimed minister of music who, besides winning five Grammy Awards, has performed in all of the seven continents in more than over 40 countries including Holland, Germany, Austrailia, Korea and in South Africa where he was the first black to appear with whites in a religious concert before integrated audiences in Johannesburg, Durban and Capetown.

His awards and other special presentations almost quadruple those of some of today's most popular pop and rhythm and blues artists.

The "Michael Jackson" of gospel—maybe not, but at least the "Prince" or "Rick James" in religious music.

Like the latter pop artists, Andrae Crouch has become recognized for his uniqueness in the area, detouring from all norms of the tradition and creating a sort of wild civility.

What makes his music different?

"I don't know. Maybe it's just the style of the music, being that I have to be motivated by the crowd. I deliver to them what I'm to creatively-wise deliver."

Andrae says part of the difference comes from a blending of various musical styles, a little bit of jazz, blues, a thick latin influence and sometimes touches of french or reggae.

"(My music) reflects me. It reflects my growing up in a multicultural environment."

The influence of his multicultural environment on him and his music has caused slight problems for some fans and would-be-fans who see Andrae as having lost all identification with being black.

"Not so," Andrae is quickly to respond. "I just don't believe in white and black gospel music. There shouldn't be any white or black gospel music. God's music should be accepted by either.

"And I do think as a people we're going straight ahead. We have our eyes open, and we're learning the pitfalls that can hold us back. (Blacks) now can see goals that are achievenable."

And quickly getting another matter out the way, Andrae insists that any belief in his association with drugs is false.

While he is hanging consistently around the top of the mountain, Andrae can recall when he was at the bottom, struggling to climb up not knowing what was at the top, other than the perforated glitter shown from other top mountain dwellers.

"I remember at Dad's church I was 11 and he needed a piano player. He called me right out of the audience, prayed for me and three Sundays later I played the piano for my dad."

And that was the beginning of a long spirit-filled career.

His first group was the Cogics, five California natives at the time, consisting of Billy Preston, Gloria Jones, Edna Wright, himself, and later twin sister Sandra, all of whom later did astonishingly well in the record industry.

The chance to record came when Light Recordsfounder, Ralph Carmichael, saw Andrae in concert with the newly formed Disciples.

He recorded his first solo album, "Just Andrae," in 1972, but for 11 years after that he recorded with the Disciples beginning with their first album, "Take the Message Everywhere."

His final performance with the group was witnessed by 18,000 fans in Tulsa, OK in 1980.

Now with his fourth album without the Disciples, "No Time to Lose," leased, Andrae promises more of that unusual magic in his hits that has made him such a success.

"This album is wonderful. There's something for everyone. By far my best album. It's an everybody album. Why there's some french style, some latin style and, of course, traditional gospel."

When Andrae isn't writing songs, recording or touring, he delves into a variety of interests and forms of recreation. He collects rare minerals and pets.

He owns a family of Afghan dogs, a Persian cat, a Cockatoo bird, and has a collection of fresh water and salt water fish.

He's a good cook and likes to restore old furniture to his favorite art deco styles. And the real hobbies include boating and deep-sea fishing.

The 5 feet 10 inch singer describes himself as quiet sometimes. Some friends laugh at the suggestion. "I'm playful, very serious and very sensitive.

"Why if I see someone cry or a real good movie, I just might burst into tears."

The future for Andrae holds, of course, more recording, but he sees videos as the thing for the future. Thus, the beginning of his own video writing has begun and the construction of Andrae Crouch videos, one profiling himself.

Andrae also envisions a gospel recording company,—solely gospel.

"I really, really love the Lord, and I guess my music reifects that" says Andrae.

One noted figure summed Andrae's accomplishments in one sentence, "He's one of the greatest songwriters of our time, if not our century."



CHECKING THINGS OUT is Andrae Crouch (right) with producer and drummer Bill Maxwell (left) listening to new release "No Time To Lose" in studio control room of Light Records. The new album is Crouch's 13th for the record company. Crouch will be IN CONCERT IN BALTIMORE on Saturday, August 18 at the Joseph Meyerhoff Symphony Hall. The benefit concert will be for the Thelma March Scholarship Fund. Tickets for the concert are $11, $16, $22 and $28.

Baltimore's gospel greats to compete at Pier Six tonight

THE LATEST GOSPEL GOSSIP

BETCHA DIDN'T KNOW that Rev. Woodie W. White of Columbia, Md. will become the first black bishop of the United Methodist Church in Illinois. It was announced July 20 at the United Methodist North Central Jurisdictional Conference in Duluth, Minn.

He becomes the third black among the 10 active bishops serving in the North Central Jurisdiction, a nine state area from Ohio to the Dakotas with 2.1 million church members.

GUESS WHO'S GOT A NEW MUSICIAN? The Bethany Baptist Church, Brooklyn's 100 year old congregations, pastored by the Rev. Dr. William Augustus Jones, Jr., is pleased to announce the appointment of Kenneth M. Dean, Jr. of Baltimore as its new full-time organist, effective September 1. Mr. Dean will preside over the three-manuel, 39 rank wicks organ and conduct the 40 voice Chancel Choir and administer the music department.

GET WELL WISHES go out to Joconda Barnes who just came home from Provident Hospital this week. Joconda is the organizer of Gospel Skate at Shake and Bake Family Fun Center. She won't tell what's wrong, but word is she's doing fine. By the way, Gospel Skate just celebrated its first anniversary.

THE WORD'S OUT that the NAACP in its travels through the path of the underground railroad, used by escaping slaves, will come through Baltimore around August 23. Of course historical landmark Centennial United Methodist Church will be a stop. Word is the congregation will host the travelers and feed them.

REV. WINIFRED JOHNSON, once pastor of the Universal Church which often held outdoor services in Druid Hill Park, has left the city to return to hometown Atlanta, Ga.



Katie Jackson

It's just the third year for the competition, but one might think it was the 30th. Each year there's a sell out crowd.

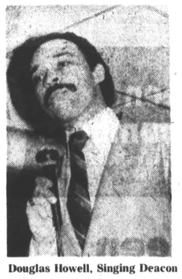
The Baltimore Harborlights Gospel Greats competition to be held at Pier Six, 8 p.m. tonight (Fri., Aug. 17), will continue its tradition of bonafide excellence as some of the city's top vocalists and groups gather to strut their stuff.

After 49 originals in the start of the competion, only 15 performances are left, but this will be the final performance emerging four renditions as the best.

A winner in category of soloist will be chosen between finalist Gwendolyn Irvin, Katie Jackson, Samuel Shufford, Elizabeth Hogue and Cyrus Drayton. Winner receives $300.

Finalists in small ensemble category include Singing Deacons, James Peterson Singers, Stroman Singers and Majestics. Winner receives $400.

In the quartet finals are the Miller Specials, Sounds of Jericho, and Mighty Gospelaires. The winner receives $400.



Douglas Howell, Singing Deacon

The big $500 for best choir will go to either the Christian Women Ensemble of Bethel A.M.E., the Male Chorus of United Baptist Church or the Young Adult Choir of Southern Baptist Church.

Special guest artists will be the Richard Smallwood Singers.

"It's a great opportunity to bring the community to Pier Six and to showcase how much talent is in the community," said contest spokesperson Norman Zieger.

A panel of judges headed by Morgan State University's renowned choir director Nathan Carter will select the winners in each category.

Tickets for the occasion are $4 and $6.

Tonight' show is the conclusion of a three month long competition that began in May. Three preliminary contests were held to produce the finalists for tonight's competition.

"We're really excited about the event. It does a lot for our city. It introduces a lot of people to the style of music and it shows off the talent present here in the city," said Zeiger.

—Metro Briefs—

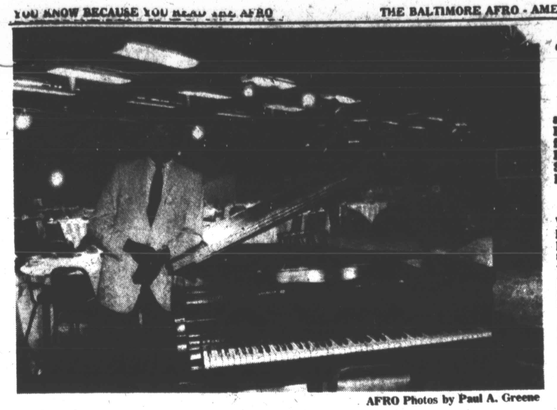
Metropolitan U.M.

The Bus Committee of Metropolitan United Methodist Church, Lanvale St. and Carrollton Ave., will hold a crab feast on Friday, August 17 from 7-12 midnight at the Forum, 4216 Primrose Ave. For further info. call 523-1366.

First St. Stephens Baptist

First St. Stephens Baptist Church, 4663 Pimlico Rd., will be holding their Second Annual First St. Stephens Day on Aug. 18 from noon to 7 p.m.

Continued on page 13



AFRO Photos by Paul A. Greene

THIS IS IT . . . the night spot for Christians. Manager Hanaibal Mickens poses in new Gospel Supper Nightclub where diners are entertained by live religious music.

—Metro Briefs

(Continued from page 12)

Highway Christian Church

Evangelist Carolyn Showell will be the speaker at a youth service on Sun., Aug. 19 at Highway Christian Church, 1100 Homewood Ave., 6 p.m.

St. Gregory

Musical auditions to be held at St. Gregory's Church, 1542 N. Gilmor St., on Wednesday, Aug. 22. Script reading, 4 p.m.; chorus auditions, 7 p.m.

Christian Unity Temple

The National United Women Ministers Conference will hold its 24th annual convention on Friday, Aug. 24th and Saturday, Aug. 25. Registration is 8 a.m. Inspiring workshops by qualified instructors. Sessions will be held at Christian Unity Temple, 3900 Garrison Ave. For further info. call 367-6704.

St. Matthews U.M.

Rev. St. George Cross and the members of St. Matthews United Methodist Church are having a Satellite Camp Meeting on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 24-26, at St. Matthews United Methodist Church, 416 E. 23rd St. Services begin 7:30 p.m. nightly.

Institutional Church of Deliverance, Inc.

Marching to their new church will be members of the Institutional Church of Deliverance, Inc. on Sun., Aug. 26, 11 a.m. The new location is 1865 N. Gay Street.

Hyatt Regency Hotel

Sunday, Aug. 26, 5 p.m. Dr. Woodie W. White of Columbia will be installed. The occasion will be at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, 300 Light St. For further info. call 944-1070.

Bethel A.M.E.

Rev. John R. Bryant will be the guest speaker each night Aug. 27 through Aug. 31, 7 p.m., at Bethel A.M.E.'s Ministerial Staff Crusade to be held at the church, 1300 Druid Hill Ave.

Mt. Olive Freewill Baptist

Elder Marvin C. Moore will be honored by the Baltimore Civic Interest Group on Friday, Aug. 31, 7 p.m., at Mt. Olive Freewill Baptist Church, Fremont Ave. and Saratoga St. Included guests are Katie Jackson, Ricky Fowler, George McCoy and Company and the Reborn Singers.

Leadenhall Baptist

The Flower Circle presents Rev. Mrs. Florence Alcorn in an afternoon of songs and a sermonette with arrangements by Milton Alcorn on Sunday, Sept. 2, 3:30 p.m. at Leadenhall Baptist Church, 1031 Leadenhall St.

St. Bartholomew's

St. Bartholomew's Church, 4711 Edmondson Ave., will hold its Annual Flea Market on Sat. Sept. 8 from 9-2 p.m. Furniture, electrical appliances, household items, etc. will be sold.

Services held Thursday for Mrs. Thompson

By Jodi Omowale

Mrs. Dorothy D. Thompson, a dedicated teacher in Baltimore City Schools for forty-seven years, died Friday, Aug. 10 at Bon Secours Hospital after a lengthy illness.

Mrs. Thompson was 82.

Described as an avid reader who enjoyed working with people, especially young people, the teacher who served nearly half-a-century, was a very self-sacrificing person, loyal to her family, a loyal church worker and teacher.

She retired in 1972 after teaching twelve years at Dunbar High School. She also taught at Douglass High School and at Booker T. Washington Junior High School.

The Former Dorothy Ann Davis is a native of Harrisburg, Pa and a graduate of Dickinson College in Carlisle, Pa. She did graduate work at Loyola College, Johns Hopkins University and the University of Md.

Mrs. Thompson was an active and dedicated member of St. Cecelia's Church in Baltimore, She was the wife of the late Noah Murphy Thompson, an advertising salesman for the AFRO who died in 1979.



Dorothy Davis Thompson
1901-1984

She is survived by two nieces, Blanche D. Beckham of Baltimore and Susanne D. Price of Columbia, and two grandnephews.

Funeral services were held on Thursday at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Liberty Heights Ave. and Edgewood Road, interment followed at the Lincoln Cemetary.

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Jerry R. Powers

Born July 14, 1951 in Baltimore, Jerry Relius Powers died Aug. 7. A graduate of Douglass High School, he attended Coppin State College and recently graduated from the Automation Academy for computer programming. He served in the Vietnam Conflict from 1970 through 1972 in active combat and received an honorable discharge.

Mr. Powers is survived by his parents Joseph and Lillie Powers; one grandmother, Hester Powers; one brother, Joseph; three sisters, Deborah, Carol and Carolyn; and one son, Kamal. Services were held Aug. 10 in the Chapel of William C. March Funeral Home, Inc. Burial was in Maryland Veterans Cemetery.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

WHAT ARE BALTIMORE CHURCHES DOING ABOUT TRANSPORTATION FOR THE ELDERLY? WHO CARES?

A BRIEFING ON THE FINDINGS OF A RESEARCH PROJECT ENTITLED: "An Exploratory Study to Analyze Management Issues in Church sponsored Transportation Programs for the Elderly."

Date: Tuesday, August 28, 1984, 4:00-6:00 p.m.

Where: Control Data Systems, Druid Park Drive at Reisterstown Road. Plenty of Off-Street Parking. Refreshments

By: Urban Gerontology Program
Morgan State University

FREE

Reservation: Please call in advance. Dr. Willamae Abrams Kilkenny, 444-3581; 444-3362, and leave your name, organization affiliation and telephone number

This study was funded, in part, by the Faculty Research Committee, Morgan University Press for 1983-84.

ST. JAMES' EPISCOPAL CHURCH
LAFAYETTE SQUARE
The Clergy
The Rev. Donald O. Wilson, S.S., LH.D., Rector
The Rev. Robert T. Ford, SS.D., Deacon
Mr. Maurice Murphy, Mus.D., Choirmaster-Organist
SUNDAY, AUGUST 19, 1984
8:00 A.M. Holy Communion
10:00 A.M. Holy Eucharist Sermon
The public is cordially invited to attend

ST. JOHN'S AME CHURCH
810 N. Carrollton Ave.
Baltimore, Md. 21217
Sunday School 9:30 AM
Worship 11:00 AM
Dr. Benjamin Foust, Pastor
Herbert Brown, Minister of Music
Jacquelyn Hardy, Organist

How to get church news in the AFRO
For coverage of religious events and/or placement of announcements in Metro/Church Briefs, write to Eddie King, AFRO-AMERICAN Newspapers, 628 N. Eutaw St., 21201 or call 728-6200, Ext. 275 at least two weeks in advance of the event.

THE MORNING STAR BAPTIST CHURCH
1063 WEST FAYETTE STREET
"THE WITNESSING CHURCH"
8:00 A.M. — Prayer and Spiritual Healing Service
9:00 A.M. — Church School — Juanita Gaither, Superintendent
9:50 A.M. — Church Training — Deacon James Gilliard, Director
10:50 A.M. — Morning Worship — Preaching — Rev. Eugene White
Dr. Samuel Ray, Pastor

DOUGLAS MEMORIAL COMMUNITY CHURCH
Lafayette and Madison Aves.
"The People of the Way"
Dr. Marion Curtis Bascom, Minister
James S. Hammond, M. Music
Juanita Hall Steele Organist
Sunday, AUGUST 19, 1984
Eight and Eleven O'Clock
Marion Curtis Bascom preaching
Anthems
8:00
— Praise the Name of the Lord — P. Ivanoff
— Burden Down, Lord Olive Williams, Arr.
11:00
— I Will Arise — Shaw-Parker
— I Belong to the Union Band — R. Nathaniel Dett, arr.

SIXTH ANNUAL CONVOCATION OF ST. MARTIN SPIRITUAL CHURCHES OF CHRIST, INC.
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