Religion In Modern Life

Grand opening at Gospel Supper Club this weekend

By Eddie King
AFRO Religion Editor

Appearing this weekend, Grammy Award nominee Vanessa Bell Armstrong will be the first national gospel artist to perform at Baltimore's Gospel Supper Club.

The club, located 5430 Park Heights Ave., is having its grand opening this weekend beginning on Saturday, September 15.

Ms. Armstrong will begin the evening at 7:30 p.m. with the first part of a three-part set. Between the other two sets will be a fashion show, hair show and performances by other local groups.

The same show will be duplicated on Sunday, September 16.

Vanessa, currently a native of Detroit, MI, immediately achieved national recognition with the release of her first album last year, "Peace Be Still," which is still ranked among the top 10 gospel albums, according to Billboard Magazine.

But eventhough her name has recently become familiar to most, her voice to most avid gospel listeners has been around for a long time. She has sung lead on at least three of Mattie Moss Clark's albums.

She also recorded "Put A Little Love in Your Heart" with the Voices of Heaven Choir, a tune which became the theme song for a highly successful religious broadcast in Detroit.

Vanessa began singing at age four. With her front porch for a stage and her neighbors for an audience, she began developing her gift in the art of entertainment.

Many of her first public appearances were in Memphis, Tennessee at the Church of God In Christ National Convention. It was then that it was noticed she sounded much like singer Aretha Franklin and, in fact, became known as "Aretha Number Two."

Having travelled almost all over the entire country, Vanessa has shared the stage with some of gospel's greatest, including the likes of the Hawkins Family, Rance Allen and James Cleveland.

There have even been a time or two she has been offerred to perform with Stevie Wonder and Aretha Franklin.

A very deeply religious woman, she has refused any offers to sing any other style of music other than Christian, but in spite of what could have been a hardship or a drawback, her career still rocketed forward at full blast.

Her talents cultivated into acting, and she appeared in the premier of "Season's Reason," produced by Ron Miller.

Vanessa has proven over and over again that she can stand with the best. And quite frequently, it does not take one long to agree.

The Supper Club will continue its line up of performances like Vanessa's.

From this Sunday on and every Sunday to follow from 7:30 p.m. until 2 a.m., artists will perform at the Club.

Scheduled for the next few weeks are some regional gospel artists. The next national attraction will be the Richard Smallwood Singers, scheduled for October 27.

The menu for this weekend will include baked chicken, fried fish, meatloaf and an assortment of other offerings. For further information about the club, interested persons can call 466-8100.

Vanessa Bell Armstrong

GOSPEL GRAPEVINES

By Eddie King

BETCHA DIDN'T KNOW that Raymond Wise's "Gospel On Stage" was going to be a success. Well, it was. In fact, the show had to be sponsored two weekends because of demand. Negotiations are understood now being made for travel on the road.

— —

ON THE WAY TO CHURCH, thought it'd be appropriate to stop by the Refuge Way of the Cross Church on Old York Road. Stopped by and never left. It was their Women In White Day and Rev. Leroy Cannady, pastor of the church preached up a storm that morning, urging couples to get married and stay married; urging women to continue to be fine examples for others; urging men to cherish their female companions. The church was packed, had to bring out extra chairs. There were concerts scheduled later. Didn't stay. Never made it to my own church either.

— —

YOU JUST HAVE TO KNOW that Rev. Leontine T.C. Kelly, has become the first black woman to be elected as a bishop in the United Methodist Church. Kelly, 64, is the third woman, in the denomination to take on such a task. "I can't be held responsible for coming a route that did not include me, so I started where I was," she said. "We—women and ethnic minorities have to do things together and learn to sense the commonality of our suffering. That's how you effect change. You don't get anywhere by fighting to succeed in the system that holds you down."

— —

GUESS WHO'S COMING TO TOWN? Don't bother, you wouldn't figure it out anyway. Well, Tramaine Hawkins is coming. Also, Doug Miller and Myrna Summers. Heard too that Aretha Franklin was going to sneak in for a gospel performance. Can't confirm it at all right now, but heard it through a reliable source.

— —

YOU'RE THE FIRST TO KNOW that Roger Holliman who was the musician over at St. Bernadine Catholic Church has left. Word is he's now in Washington, D.C. at a new church.

— —

DID YOU KNOW that there are a group of young ministers in the city who have begun their own young ministerial alliance. They travel around together, support each other and visit perspective churches. Said they haven't thought of a name for themselves. Soon as they do, you'll know first.

— —

Rev. T. J. Jemison, head of the National Baptist Convention, after close to a full 30 minute meeting with President Reagan along with six other black leaders, is convinced that Reagan's views on blacks have been distorted. Other black leaders are hinting to him watch out. What do you think?

Church Briefs

Saints Pentecostal Holiness

The Old Time Way Revival Crusade Ministry concludes tonight, Friday September 14, with Rev. J.D. Fowler at Saints Pentecostal Holiness Church, 4113 Frederick Avenue. Service begins 7:45 p.m.

New Psalmist Baptist

New Psalmist Baptist Church, Cathedral and Franklin Sts., is sponsoring its initial celebration and banquet to benefit its Christian Day School tonight. Fri., Sept. 14, 7 p.m. at the Forum, 4201 Primrose Ave.

Holiday Inn

First Anniversary Banquet of the Corinthian Specials will be Sat., Sept. 15, 6:30 p.m., at the Holiday Inn, Dogwood Rd. For further info call Rev. Daniel Green at 366-8831.

Simmons Memorial Baptist

There will be a Joy Night service at Simmons Memorial Baptist Church, Pennsylvania Ave. and Cumberland Sts., on Sat., Sept. 15, 8 p.m.

St. Mary's Seminary

Auxiliary Bishop John Ricard will celebrate Mass in honor of the eighth anniversary of Mother Seton's canonization in the Siminary Chapel on Paca Street at 4 p.m. on Sat., Sept. 15.

Union Baptist

The Cultural Arts Committee of Union Baptist Church 1219 Druid Hill Ave., is presenting renowned organist, Phillip McIntyre, of D.C. in concert on Sun., Sept. 16, 5 p.m.

St. James U.M.

A religious play entitled "200 Years of Caring" will be presented by members of the St. James United Methodist Church, Monroe and Lexington Sts., on Sun., Sept. 16, 3 p.m.

Macedonia Baptist

Celebrating their 18th Anniversary is the Missionary of Macedonia Baptist Church, Fremont and LaFayette Aves., on Sun., Sept. 16 at 3 p.m.

John Wesley U.M.

Annual Women's Day will be held Sunday, September 3: p.m., at John Wesley United Methodist Church, 6922 Ritchie Highway, Glen Burnie. Morning speaker will be Mrs. Ella White Campbell, retired school official and at 3 p.m. will be choir in concert.

Metropolitan U.M.

Homecoming will be observed on Sun., Sept. 16 at Metropolitan United Methodist Church, Lanvale St. and Carrollton Ave., at 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. Dr. Levi Watkins will deliver the morning message.

Gillis Memorial C.C.

The Good Neighbor's Club of the Gillis Memorial Community Church, 4016 Park Heights Ave., will be celebrating their anniversary on Sun., Sept. 16 at 3:30 p.m. Pastor Naomi Durant will be the guest speaker.

First Baptist, Gilford

The Bright Side Newsletter of First Baptist Church at 7504 Oakland Mills Road, Columbia, will be having its seventh anniversary on Sun., Sept. 16, 5 p.m. The True Tone Gospel Singers of D.C will be in concert.

Sharp Street U.M.

Men of Sharp Street Memorial United Methodist Church, Dolphin and Ettings Sts., will celebrate their 68th Annual Men's Day on Sun., Sept. 16, 8:30 and 11 a.m. Rev. George DeFord will be early morning speaker. Kurt Schmoke will be 11 a.m. speaker.

Ames Memorial U.M.

Health and Welfare of Ames Memorial United Methodist Church, Carey and Baker Sts., will present 100 Women in White on Sun., Sept. 16, 3 p.m.

St. Matthews U.M.

Rev. St. George Cross and members of St. Matthews United Methodist Church, 416 E. 23rd St., invite you to attend a great satelite camp meeting on Fri., Sat., and Sun. (Sept. 21, 22, and 23). Evang. Kenneth Hagin will be preaching for the occasion. Services begin 7:30 p.m. nightly.

Southern Baptist

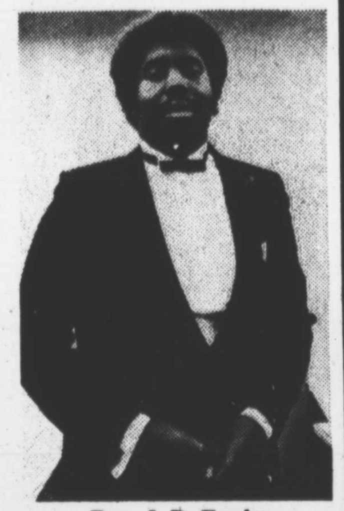
Southern Baptist Church, 1701 N. Chester St., celebrates Homecoming/Family Day on Sun., Sept. 30, 1:30-3:30 p.m..

Heritage United Church of Christ

Heritage United Church of Christ, 3106 Liberty Heights Ave., is beginning a year of celebration of its 20th Anniversary with a tribute to the Pastor, Rev. Wendell Phillips, on Friday, September 21, Hunt Valley Inn, Hunt Valley, Md. from 7 to 11 p.m. For further info. call 542-1204.

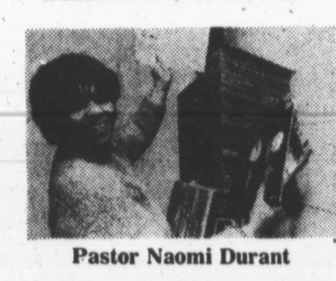
Gillis Memorial C.C.

A Mother/Daughter Banquet and Awards Program will benefit Women's Day for Gillis Memorial C.C. Church, 4016 Park Heights Ave., on Sept. 22, 2 p.m.



Rev. J. D. Fowler

Bishop John Ricard



Pastor Naomi Durant

Dr. Levi Watkins

Methodist churches together for celebration

By Eddie King
AFRO Religion Editor

Members of the combined Methodist communities are sponsoring a joint service at the Howard Park United Methodist Church, 5020 Gwynn Oak Avenue, on Sunday, September 16 at 4 p.m.

The service is an attempt to acquaint members of the Methodist church and others with the differences between the AME, AME Zion and CME Churches, while at the same time emphasizing those qualities that unify them as one body.

Mostly, it is a focus on the black development and progress in the Methodist church.

Like any service, there will be singing and preaching from various participating churches and choirs.

The Methodist church is 200 years old in America, and its relationship to black America has been close.

It was out of some of the most prominent black Methodist churches that black colleges, institutions and organizations developed. The roles black Methodist played in America's growth have been many.

"While many people have noticed that we are different in a way, many haven't noticed that we have a common heritage. Of couse, there are those people who don't even know that there is a difference between the churches," said Rev. Douglas Sands, pastor of Howard Park.

"We'd like to let people know that in the midst of those differences that we can still worship and serve God together, eventhough there are certain denominational differences.

"So, as the 200th celebration of American Methodism is taking place, the local churches in this area, especially the black ones, are getting together for this service and joining together in worship."

Preachers from each denomination will speak at the service.

Beginning the following week on Tues., Sept. 18 through Fri., Sept. 21, a revival will be held featuring various guest Methodist ministers throughout the week.

The church even went so far some time as to prohibit seating and in most cases, at least limited it to the back or mezzanine areas.

It was this treatment and a combination of other social concerns that eventually led to the development of the predominantly three black divisions of the Methodist church.

Baby Day proves fruitful for gospel group

It was only suppose to be a fundraiser, but the baby contest sponsored by the Sounds of Joy Gospel Singers of Knox Presbyterian Church turned out to be quite an event.

Some 200 parishioners showed up for the occasion. It was the first contest of the sort to ever be held at the church and everybody wanted to see what it would be like.

"Well, it was just great," said Stella Johnson, one of the sponsors. "We had a real good time with so many little ones smiling and making everything just great."

Incidentally, the group raised over $800 at the service. Miss Johnson said she expects the contest might become an annual occurrence.

(AFRO Photo by Bruce Smallwood)
BABY CONTESTANTS — Contestants for the baby contest at Knox Presbyterian Church pose just one more time for AFRO photographer.

Macedonia Baptist members visit old stomping grounds

By Fannie Poulson

Sunday, September 2 was a memorable day in the lives of hundreds of Macedonians who made their way back to the old Church site they left 55 years ago to occupy the new church at Lafayette and Fremont Aves.

In preparation for joint service with the present occupants of the old building, Macedonians rode cars, boarded buses and some walked to Saratoga and Vincent Sts., now the home of the Greater Harvest Baptist Church.

There they witnessed the colorful anniversary celebration of the Greater Harvest Baptist Ushers, and heard a thought-provoking message from their own pastor, Dr. Willard L. Clayton.

For many of those present, it was their first return visit since they left in 1925. It was quite obvious that there was much nostalgia as they recalled familiar spots in the old ediface and noted the changes as a result of modern renovations.

Some pointed out where they sat with their parents as children. Others remembered that they first met the Lord and were baptized there.

Occupying the choir lofts were the Senior Choir, Youth Choir and the Inspiration Choir, which appropriately sang, "Take Me Back."

Rev. Clayton was introduced by the acting pastor, Rev. Ernest Jackson. Also serving on the rostrum were sons of Macedonia, Rev. Leander Brown, pastor of New Carmel Star Baptist and Rev. Alvin Gwynn, associate minister of Macedonia.

Chairpersons for the 110th anniversary celebrations were Mrs. Earline Ford and Mrs. Edna Dunton.

Metro Church Briefs

St. Mark Baptist

Mrs. Delores Baptiste and the Duckett Family will be in concert on Sunday, September 23, 4 p.m., at New St. Mark Baptist Church, 3905 Springdale Ave.

Hall U.M.

A bicentennial banquet on the water will be sponsored by Hall United Methodist Church in Glen Burnie, Solley and Nab Creek Rds., at the Inner Harbor on Sat., Sept. 23 aboard the Port Baltimore. Rev. William Shearer will perform a character in methodist history.

Macedonia Baptist

Rhonda Gayles White will be in recital at the Macedonia Baptist Church, Fremont and Lafayette Aves., on Sun., Sept. 30, 5 p.m., presented by the Inspirational Chorus.

Epworth U.M.

The Morgan State University Choir will be in concert at the Epworth United Methodist Chapel, Liberty Rd. and St. Lukes Lane, on Sun., Sept. 30, 4 p.m.

Green's Baptist

An old fashion tent meeting will continue at Green's Baptist Temple, 2600 W. Coldspring Lane, nightly until Sept. 30.

Israel Baptist

An evening of sacred music will be presented by Edmond Meade and Bernice Meade Waker at Israel Baptist Church, 1220 N. Chester St., on Sept. 29, 7 p.m. $5.

Morning Star Baptist

Morning Star Baptist Church, 1063 W. Fayette St., will be the site of the Second Annual Fund Raiser Dinner for the Black United Fund to be held Fri., Sept. 21, 7 p.m.

Mt. Lebanon Baptist

Women of Mt. Lebanon Baptist Church are sponsoring a shopping trip to Englishtown, N.J. on Sat., Sept. 29. For further info. call 669-1800.

Wilson Park C.C

First Annual Women and Men in White Service will be held at Wilson Park Christian Community Church, 4629 York Rd., on Sat., Sept. 29, 7 p.m., with guest speaker Rev. Barbara Sands.

Emmanuel C.C.

Joy and Devotion will be in concert at Emmanuel C.C. Church, Carrollton Ave. and Lanvale St., on Sept. 30, 4 p.m. $1.99

Bethel A.M.E.

The R.A.C. Young Historial Society of Bethel A.M.E. Church, 1300 Druid Hill Ave., will celebrate its annual day on Sun., Sept. 30, 6 p.m.

Bahai Center

Mrs. Marjorie Pierson of Cockeysville will be the guest speaker at the Baltimore Bahai' Center at noon on September 30.

Hopkins U.M.

Hopkins United Methodist Church, Rt. 216, Highland Rd., will celebrate Christian Education Month on Sunday, September 30.

John Wesley U.M.

On Sunday, October 14, the Adult Fellowship of John Wesley United Methodist Church, 3202 W. North Ave., will celebrate its 40th Anniversary. Mrs. Sandra Bunch will be guest soloist.

Campfield A.M.E.

Women of Campfield A.M.E. Church are having Women's Day on Oct. 14.

St. Bernardine

Come and spend a day in New York and see the play, "Mama I Want to Sing," with the St. Bernadine Roman Catholic Church on, November 10. For further info. call Alease Gray at 466-6467.

ST. JAMES' EPISCOPAL CHURCH
LAFAYETTE SQUARE
The Clergy
The Rev. Donald O. Wilson, B.S., L.H.D., Rector
The Rev. Robert T. Ford, SS.B., Deacon
Mr. Maurice Murphy, Mus.D., Choirmaster-Organist
Sunday, September 16, 1984
8:00 A.M. Holy Communion
10:00 A.M. Holy Eucharist Sermon
The public is cordially invited to attend

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BAPTIST CHURCH
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THE BIBLICAL BOOK
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(by James Efird)
As Taught By Our Pastor
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Each Sunday at the
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ALL YOU NEED IS YOUR BIBLE
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THAT GOD IS ALL
YOU REQUIRE TO SUCCEED!
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BAZAAR
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Saturday Sept. 15
11:00 A.M. - 7 P.M.
Variety Dinners $3.50
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Dr. E.A. Wilson, Pastor
Sponser: Evangelist Mary Brown

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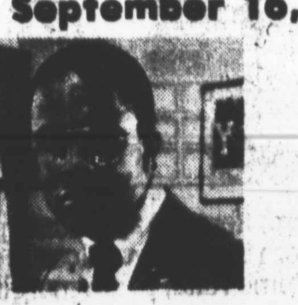
ANNUAL
HOMECOMING
Sunday,
September 16, 1984
3:30 P.M. Afternoon Service
Rev. Ralph White, choirs and Congregation
of the New Friendship Baptist Church
Will be our special guest.
Mt. Sinai will also be having its Fall Revival on Monday, Sept. 17 thru Friday, Sept. 21. Our guest preacher for the week will be Rev. James Fuller, pastor of New Hope Baptist Church. Services will begin 7:30 p.m. each night.
ALL ARE WELCOME
REV. WILLIAM BROWN, Pastor

Sharp Street Memorial
United Methodist Church
MEN'S DAY
Sunday, September 16, 1984



Kurt Schmoke
receives visitors and friends at
reception to follow the service.
BREAKFAST—8:30 A.M.
Kurt Schmoke—Guest Speaker at 11:00 A.M.
(Reception to follow service in lower
auditorium—1206 Etting Street)
All Welcome!

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St. Gregory's The Great
Come to a very special mass proclaiming our faith and giving praise to God. Celebrated by the church family of St. Gregory's The Great—Sunday September 16, 1984, in Spray Court (1500 Mount Street), at 11:30 a.m. Celebrant — FATHER DAMIEN Guest speaker — Siter Mary Paul Lee, O.S.P. Music by Saint Gregory's Choirs.
ALL ARE WELCOME

ST. JOHN'S AME CHURCH
810 N. Carrollton Ave.
Baltimore, Md. 21217
Sunday School 9:30 AM
Worship 11:00 AM
Annual Homecoming 3:00 P.M.
Dr. Emmitt Burns,
Rising Star Baptist Church
Dr. Benjamin Foust, Pastor
Herbert Brown, Minister of Music
Jacquelyn Hardy, Organist

HOMECOMING
AT
BETHEL A.M.E. CHURCH
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 1984
CALLING ALL BETHEL MEMBERS HOME

Dr. John R. Bryant, Pastor
FEAST IN THE STREET
AFTER THE 11:00 A.M. SERVICE
1300 BLOCK OF DRUID HILL AVENUE

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 Davis
Organist
Sunday,
SEPTEMBER 16, 1984
8:00 a.m.—
Marion Curtis Bascom
Preaching
11:00 a.m.—
The Rev. Annie Perry Daniel
Preaching
Music
Chancel Choir—8:00 a.m.
For the Beauty of the Earth
—arr. Katharine K. Davis
Hall! Hall! Hall!
—arr. R. Nathaniel Dett
Chancel Choir—11:00 a.m.
With A Voice Of Singing
—Martin Shaw
I'll Never Turn Back, No More
—arr. R. Nathaniel Dett

MORNING STAR BAPTIST CHURCH
"The Witnessing Church"
ANNUAL HOMECOMING
1063 West Fayette Street
8:00 A.M. — Prayer & Spiritual Healing Service
9:00 A.M. — Church School
9:50 A.M. — Church Training
10:50 A.M. - Morning Worship — Preaching
Dr. Ray
Athem: "Let All Things now Living"—Davis
Spiritual: "Give Me Jesus"—W.C. Handy
3:30 P.M. — Mr. Samuel Johnathan Ray
—In concert baratone sponsored by the Board of Christian Education. — Mrs. Lily Hines, Chairperson.

SEP