

Faith News/Directory

3,500 cheer Bland, Volunteer Choir



Larry Bland, joyfully leads the 35-member Volunteer Choir, at its 40th anniversary celebration.

For 40 years, Larry Bland & The Volunteer Choir has entertained Richmonders and more with uplifting Christian songs.

And it was no different at their 40th anniversary concert last Sunday at Dogwood Dell.

More than 3,500 people packed the outdoor amphitheater in Byrd Park to hear the spectacular voices of the 35-member choir that entertained as it inspired, with disciplined voices that punctuated a pleasant evening breeze.

For nearly two hours, the group sang a variety of songs that had many people on their feet and most people clapping along, giving evidence to support Larry Bland's promise about the program. The choir's artistic director promised that the program would be "moving" and take the audience to "church." He and the choir did just that.

The personable Mr. Bland invited the audience to sing along if they knew the words. Many people took him up on the invitation, joining in the musical celebration that showed once again why the choir has been asked to perform for governors and British royalty as well as with the Richmond Symphony and the



Photos by Sandra Sellars/Richmond Free Press

A portion of the estimated 3,500 people who packed the Dogwood Dell amphitheater for an extraordinary evening of gospel music that exposed the audience to a spirit of inspiration and "church."

Virginia Opera Company.

The choir was classily clad — the men in tuxedos and the women in black dresses and pearls — and was backed up by Mr. Bland on the piano and three others on electric keyboard, guitar and drums. Lou Dean, an institution in Richmond broadcasting, introduced the choir.

After an intermission as the sun set, the group returned to the spotlight for the second half wearing dazzling formal gowns and tuxedos with tails.

The concert was part of the city's 52nd Festival of Arts, and was supported by unlikely co-sponsors, the Richmond

Free Press and Verizon.

Mr. Bland presented engraved crystal plaques of appreciation to Free Press Editor/Publisher Raymond H. Boone Sr. and his wife, Jean Patterson Boone, director of advertising, and to Randolph Dillard, area manager of external affairs for Verizon.

Mr. Boone, with his wife nearby wearing an Obama for President tee shirt, lauded the choir for its outstanding contributions to the culture of Richmond and made a strong get-out-the-vote pitch for presidential candidate Barack Obama.

First African Baptist Church
2700 Hanes Avenue, Richmond, Va. 804-329-7279
Dr. James E. Leary, Interim Pastor

Stewards of Our Legacy **227** *Servants of Our Destiny*
YEARS

Sunday School 9:15 A.M.	Wednesday Mid-Week Worship Bible Study - 12 Noon Prayer & Praise - 6:45 P.M. Bible Study - 7:30 P.M.
Sunday Worship 10:45 A.M.	

Mission Statement: People of God developing Disciples for Jesus Christ through Preaching and Teaching of God's Holy Word reaching the people of the Church and the Community.

"The Church With A Welcome"

Sharon Baptist Church
22 E. Leigh Street, Richmond, VA 23219 • 643-3825
sharonbaptistchurch@verizon.net • Rev. Dr. Paul A. Coles, Pastor

SUNDAYS	WEDNESDAYS
8:00 a.m. Morning Worship	12 noon Midweek Service
9:30 a.m. Church School	7-8 p.m. Bible Study
11:15 a.m. Morning Worship	8-9 p.m. Prayer and Praise

ZION BAPTIST CHURCH
2006 DECATUR STREET
RICHMOND, VA 23224

DR. ROBERT L. PETTIS, SR., PASTOR

SUNDAY SERVICE 10 A.M.
CHURCH SCHOOL 8:45 A.M.
WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY 7 P.M.

TRANSPORTATION SERVICES 232-2867

"RECLAIMING THE LOST BY PROCLAIMING THE GOSPEL"

Unity Baptist Church
1301 Roseneath Road
Richmond, Virginia 23230
(804) 358-8817
Rev. Barbara J. Wynn, Pastor

Sunday Services
Church School — 9:30 a.m.
Pre Worship Service — 10:45 a.m.
Worship Service — 11:00 a.m.
Communion Service - 2nd Sundays

Wednesdays
Bible Study — 7:00 p.m.

Join us for the "Unity Experience"

"A Place of Synergy for A New Generation"

We're holding our Sunday morning services at T.C. Boushall Middle School 3400 Hopkins Road

Sunday Worship 11:00 am
Hip-Hop Worship - Every 4th Sunday

GOD Chasers International Church
3400 Hopkins Road - Richmond
Contact Us at: gtf@verizon.net
www.gchasers.com • Pastors Douglas & Gwen Ross

Mission Statement: Impacting our community and world through disciplining, evangelizing, educating, encouraging and equipping.

"The Church with a Vision"

St. John Baptist Church
4317 North Avenue, Richmond, Va. 23222
(804) 321-6691 Office • (804) 321-2876 Fax • stjohnc@comcast.net
Rev. Dr. Michael L. Felton, Pastor

SUNDAY	Church School 9:45 a.m.	Morning Worship 11:15 a.m.
MONDAY	Bible Study 12:00 p.m.	
WEDNESDAY	Prayer Meeting 6:30 p.m.	Bible Study 7:00 p.m.

Faith Community Baptist Church
1903 Cool Lane Richmond, VA 23223
Phone 804.649.7225 Fax 804.649.0935
Reverend Dr. Patricia A. Gould-Champ
Pastor and Founding Visionary

THURSDAY, JULY 17, 2008

Join us tonight at 7:00 PM
as we continue in praise and thanksgiving for 13 Years of Life with our guests
Dr. F. Todd Gray Pastor and the Fifth Street Baptist Church

SUNDAY, JULY 20, 2008

10:00 AM - DIVINE WORSHIP SERVICE
Sermon: *STAY PRAYED UP!* (1 Thessalonians 5:17)

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
Monday, July 28 - Friday, August 1, 2008
6:30 PM - 8:30 PM

TUESDAYS 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM Bible Study
THURSDAYS 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM Intercessory Prayer

Better Covenant Deliverance Evangelistic Church
(A Multi-Cultural Ministry)
Believing God for Grace to Regenerate in '08

Bishop Curtis L. Jackson
Pastor & Founder

Bible Study
Wednesdays 7 p.m.
All services held at Cornerstone Christian Church 9400 Gayton Rd., Richmond, Va. 804-741-6542; fax 804-743-3007 Email: jacobdec@worldnet.att.net

Sunday Worship
11 a.m.

Affiliated with Come Alive Ministry International Fellowship, Akron, Ohio

Good Shepherd Baptist Church
28th and R Streets • Richmond, VA 23223 • Office: (804) 644-1402
Dr. Sylvester T. Smith, Pastor
The Rev. Paul S. Pleasants
Minister of Youth and Christian Education
"There's A Place for You"

Sunday	Tuesday	Thursday
9:30 AM Church School	6:30 PM Church-wide Bible Study	12:15 PM Mid-Day Meditation (Holy Communion)
11:15 AM Worship Service (Holy Communion each 2nd Sunday)	6:30 PM Youth Bible Study (Each 1st and 3rd)	6:30 PM Prayer Meeting (After 2nd Sunday)

Westwood BAPTIST CHURCH

SUNDAYS
8:30 a.m. Church School
10:00 a.m. Morning Worship
Rev. Dr. A. Michael Black
Pastor

TUESDAYS 7:30 p.m. Men's Bible Study
1ST AND 3RD WEDNESDAYS 6:00 a.m. Early Morning Prayer
THURSDAYS 7:00 p.m. Church Bible Study

915 Glenburnie Rd., Richmond, Va. 23226, 804.288.3223

Ebenezer Baptist Church 1858
"The People's Church"
216 W. Leigh St. • Richmond, Va. 23220 • Tel: 804-643-3366
Fax: 804-643-3367 • Email: ebcoffice@comcast.com • web: eberichmond.org

150th Jubilee Anniversary Year

Fri., July 25, 2008 - Drama Ministry Dinner Theater 6:00 p.m.
Sun., July 27, 2008 - 11:00 a.m. - Dr. Stephen Hewlett, guest speaker

Sunday Worship	8:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.
Sunday Church School	9:30 a.m.
Service of Holy Communion	Every 3rd Sunday
Service of Baptism	2nd Sunday, 11 a.m.
Life Application Bible Class	Mon. 6:30 p.m.
Mid-Week Senior Adult Fellowship	Tues. 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Wednesday Meditation & Bible Study	Wed. 7:45 p.m.
Homework & Tutoring	Wed. 4:30 p.m.
Scouting Program	Wed. 6:00 p.m.
Thursday Bible Study	Thurs., 11:45 a.m.

Dr. Levy M. Armwood, Pastor
Dr. Wallace J. Cook, Pastor Emeritus

Great Hope Baptist Church
2101 Venable Street • 648-8041 • Rev. DR. EARL L. BLEDSOE, Pastor
Encouraging Liberation in Today's World Through Jesus Christ

The Great Hope Baptist Church Youth Ministries invites you to

"Walk around Heaven" for their **Annual Youth Revival** July 19-24, 2008

Bring your neighbor, friends, parents and come out to support our youth!

Don't lose your seat! Stop by for a spiritual and uplifting evening.

Saturday, July 19, 5:30 p.m.
Youth Fashion Extravaganza
(See our super stars model the latest fashions)

Tom Thumb Wedding (Tiny Angels Youth Choir) DONATION

Sunday, July 20 8 a.m. and 11 a.m.
Worship Service Youth Ministers

Monday, July 21 - Thursday, July 24, 7 p.m.
Youth Revival
Dynamite Youth Ministries

Call the church for reservation and more information 648-8041

New Deliverance Evangelistic Church
1701 Turner Road, Richmond, Virginia 23225
(804) 276-0791 fax (804)276-5272 www.ndec.net

9th Annual HOLY CONVOCATION
New Deliverance Fellowship Conference of Churches
July 28 - August 1, 2008
6:30 p.m. nightly
Noonday Prayer each day
Workshops: Tuesday-Thursday nightly @ 6:30 p.m.

"Deliverance In Focus" featuring Bishop G.O. Glenn is now on

FOX RICHMOND every Monday 6:30-7 a.m.

Monday TV Broadcast
6:30 a.m. FOX Richmond
6:00 p.m. The WORD Network
Comcast Digital Cable Channel 294

Weekday Radio Broadcast
WREJ 1540 AM Radio
8:15 a.m.-8:30 a.m.

Saturday Radio Broadcast
WGGM 820 AM Radio
10 a.m. Petersburg

Affiliated with the Church of God in Christ, Inc.

Sunday 8 a.m. Sunday School 9 a.m. Worship Service	Wednesday Services 7 p.m. Prayer 7:30 p.m. Mid-Week Revival/ Bible Study	Saturday 8:30 a.m. Intercessory Prayer
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Second Baptist Church

James Henry Harris, Pastor
1400 Idlewood Avenue • Richmond, Virginia 23220
Telephone: 804-353-7682 • Fax: 804-358-0698

Office Administrator: sbcwestend@comcast.net
Announcements: sbcannouncements@comcast.net

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

WORSHIP SERVICES Sundays @ 10:00 AM	CHURCH SCHOOL Sundays @ 8:30 AM
BIBLE STUDY Tuesdays @ 12:00 Noon Thursdays @ 6:30 PM	PRAYER Wednesdays @ 7:00 PM Saturdays @ 8:00 AM