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Church celebrates Black History Month with music and comedy

WAPPINGERS FALLS, NY, January 25, 2012—The BMBC Youth Choir will host “A Night of Gospel Music and Comedy” at Bethel Missionary Baptist Church located at 2607 South Avenue in Wappingers Falls, NY on Saturday, February 25, 2012 at 6:00 p.m.

The event will feature comedian John F.U.D.G.E. Rickenbacker Jr. aka Bishop Neckbone, Gospel hip-hop artist Jesus Perez of Gospel City, vocalist Trevanne, winner of 2011 BET’s Lens on Talent Music, and Monique Cole. In addition the BMBC Youth Choir will perform, along with BMBC Liturgical Dance Ministry Troupe and the BMBC Jazz Ensemble.

“John F.U.D.G.E’s act is entertaining and funny. As parents with teenagers, it is refreshing to see a comedian with humorous and tasteful jokes. F.U.D.G.E is not a comedian trying to do gospel comedy, but a talented Christian praising God with his gift,” says Greg Joyner, a deacon of Bethel Missionary Baptist Church and father of two. “He even incorporated Sesame Street characters in his routines, as Elmo is one of my favorites.”

Jasmine Corrie, sophomore at Drexel University, says, “People like Jesus Perez and F.U.D.G.E show us how we can use our talents to worship. Worship is not limited to traditional hymns. This gospel music and comedy show can help young people realize there are different ways to praise the Lord and we can enjoy the time spent doing so.”

This Youth Choir Benefit will help raise funds for choir robes. Shelli Joyner, chair of the Youth Ministry, explains that it has been fifteen years since the robes have been replaced. “Our goal is to have new robes for our Annual Youth Choir Day in April. And will allow the ministry to further its outreach in the community.”

BMBC Youth Choir

The BMBC Youth Choir is a group of students from age 11 through 22. They are the feature choir on second Sundays, sing annually at the DCC Black History Gospel Concert and host a yearly Youth Choir Day in April. BMBC Youth Choir also sings across the Mid-Hudson Valley at other churches, and in nursing homes.

“The youth choir is not strictly comprised of singers. Participation includes rapping, directing, spoken word, instruments, or any other musical talent used to praise God. Also, the youth choir prepared me foundationally for the Drexel University Gospel Choir and it may open up doors for someone else,” says 19-year-old Corrie, who started singing in the choir at 11 years old.

Feature Gospel Artists

Comedian, John, F.U.D.G.E. Rickenbacker Jr., one of the new faces of Christian comedy, combines his wit with beatboxing, singing, impersonations, characters, and funny stories about

his life. F.U.D.G.E., (funny, unique, devoted, gentleman, entertainer) is a four-time winner of the McDonald's Gospel Fest for Christian comedy.

Hip Hop artist Jesus Perez brings a unique style of Jesus Music that enlightens and encourages the body and soul of all ages with God's Word and personal narratives. Perez, owner and founder of Gospel City Limitless Music, released his third album "The Catalyst Chronicles." His goal is being a light unto this world, and a catalyst to those around him.

In addition, award-winning vocalist Trevanne will ignite the audience with her magical voice. Trevanne took first place on BET's Lens on Talent Music. She says, "I just want people to feel something when I sing. If they do, I've done my job."

"Trevanne's sultry sound transcends all generations," says Greg Joyner. "She uses the Gift God gave her to up lift his name and minister to all those who hear her sing."

At age four while attending a church service with her grandmother, Trevanne pointed to the choir and whispered in her grandma's ear "I want to do what they're doing." Although as a youth she did not join choir, her passion for singing augmented. "It was a burning desire that couldn't be tamed," she says.

That untamed desire propelled Trevanne to sing at the school talent shows, her graduations, fashion shows, weddings, and funerals. If there was a microphone, Trevanne sang. And once she recognized the audience's reaction, music became her career choice. At 18 years old, she signed her first record deal with the now defunct Tyson Records, which folded before the release of an album. Perseverance paid off with a Cherry Lane Publishing contract.

Vocalist Monique Cole, youth minister at Holy Tabernacle #1 C.O.G.I.C. in Brooklyn, NY, will also offer a gift of song in the evening line-up. Cole is a praise leader and the youth minister. She praises God for the legacy of salvation and music ministry in her family that started with her late grandfather Professor Frances H. Madison, and has continued through her mother and Pastor Dr. Paulette Veney.

Cole says, "At the age of three, I was singing in the church accompanied by my grandfather and my mother, which were both pianist/organist. [They] both taught me to always thank God for every door God opens for me to minister and testify of God's love, goodness and saving grace." Thirty years later, Cole continues to glorify the Lord in song.

"This is a life changing, stimulating, mind-boggling and exciting time for our youth," says Rev. Gary Colter, Youth Pastor at Bethel Missionary Baptist Church.

A Night of Gospel Music and Comedy will be a time of fun, fellowship and laughter for all ages, children and adults, alike.

If you go, the event takes place at Bethel Missionary Baptist Church located at 2607 South Avenue in Wappingers Falls, NY. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. Donations are \$20 for adults, \$12 for all students and seniors, and \$25 at the door. The proceeds will benefit the BMBC Youth Choir.

For more information and tickets, call Bethel Missionary Baptist Church office at 845. 296.0102, Gregory Joyner 917.887.3502 or Shelli Joyner 845.649.1057 or visit the church website www.bethelwappingersfalls.org

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