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Music Ministry

First Baptist Church (Shelby, NC)

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The Charlotte Observer October 17, 1971

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Singers

Jack Moss, left, at left and Ralph Glenn sing as Lu Litton and Debbie Allen, right, listen. (Photo by David Daity)



Choir's Rehearsals Become Mini-Revivals

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Choir aren't "Jesus freaks." They don't like the term. It has a bad taste, a taste of what it's not about, they say.

But Glenn was quick to say he had "been a Christian since I was 12 and I'm proud of it."

There are non-Christians in the choir, even though it's sponsored by First Baptist.

"We asked for any young person who'd like to participate. We have Protestants, Catholics, Jews, black and whites," he said.

Ramsey, who's been at First Baptist about five years, said he never liked rock music un-

members when he presented the first rock program here a couple of years ago.

"Much to my surprise, my biggest support was from the older people," he said. "I think they could see a newness, an excitement. They suspected something that was going to have some success."

Their excitement isn't comparable to that of the kids', though. "This kind of thing gives you a different approach to life," Pat Chamberlain, a 17-year-old senior at Shelby High said. "It makes you feel good inside to know you can spread this message in this way."

Lou Litton, 15-years-old, said it has showed some young people "who thought the church was boring, that it's not a boring thing."

the only reason I'm here now."

And then Ramsey asked if three young people would tell God in prayer about something they were thankful for.

There was a long silence as all heads were bowed, Quaker-meeting style. A shy girl, who'd "wanted to speak earlier but was scared", thanked God for "this group. it's showed me that Christ is real and can do something for me," she said.

Another asked God to bless Ramsey and continue to give him "the patience and understanding to keep this going."

And finally, a boy spoke. "Help us show other people what love is . . . help us all live as we should."

Then, a loud "Amen."



Van Ramsey Conducts Sing Out Choir

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Continued From Page 1A

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Ramsey, who's been at First Baptist about five years, said he never liked rock music until things like "Good News" and "Natural High" were written.

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Ramsey, who said the current musical has been booked for performances at five Cleveland County high schools and is available for others, treats each rehearsal like a mini-revival.

Last Tuesday, he asked if anybody had any good experiences to share.

Marie Farrow, a Shelby High student, reluctantly stood up, gathered her courage, and then went to the microphone.

Her "good experience" is the Sing Out Choir, she said.

"It really means a lot to me," she said, "because it's real. Jesus Christ is here. He's real and He does make a difference in your life. That's

the only reason I'm here now."

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