

Home-Going Celebration for The Rev. Raiford S. Wheeler

Sunrise

December 18, 1951

Sunset

July 25, 2012

Services

Wednesday, August 1, 2012 - 11:00 a.m.

Park Avenue Christian Church Disciples of Christ

70 Park Avenue @ Rev. Raiford S. Wheeler Plaza

East Orange, New Jersey

Rev. Raiford S. Wheeler, Senior Pastor - Transitioned

Rev. Harriet Wallace, Executive Pastor

Rev. Dr. Constance Eural, Officiating

Rev. Granville Seward, Eulogist

Obituary

RAIFORD SAMUEL WHEELER was born December 18, 1951 in Newark, New Jersey. He was one of six siblings of the late William S. Wheeler and Marcella Wheeler Boweebank. Wheeler spent his early childhood years in Morristown, NJ. He attended the Morristown School District. He attended the Union Baptist Church in Morristown and was a member of the BTU. In the early sixties his family moved to Montclair where his father had accepted the pastorate at Bright Hope Baptist Church. At Bright Hope Wheeler was an usher, member of the choir, and a percussionist. Wheeler attended the Montclair School District. He received his Master of Engineer from NJIT. Pastor Wheeler had a passion for racing. Every chance he got he was at English Town's race track with his son Raiford II. Pastor Wheeler was fortunate enough to play with the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra as a percussionist. In 1972, Pastor Wheeler met Maxine Everett of Rockingham, NC, who later became his bride in 1975. To this union two children was born. Pastor Wheeler loved and adored his family. Pastor Wheeler always knew there was a calling on his life. He preached his first sermon in his backyard standing on a milk crate. His congregation was his brother and sisters. He also preached his dog (Rex's) funeral.

On August 18, 1985, Pastor Wheeler was called to fill the pulpit at Park Avenue Christian Church and began serving as interim Pastor on September 22, 1985. Ever since his divine appointing twenty seven years ago, Pastor Wheeler and his family have served unselfishly and with true devotion. Over the span of twenty-seven years Pastor Wheeler has made it his mission to do God's will of winning lost souls and equipping the saints for ministry.

Pastor Wheeler served as the President of the United Clergy of the Oranges during the mid 1990's and led the organization to be a strong voice on behalf of the citizens of the Oranges, seeking to improve the quality of life and the people's voice in their government. He also continued and strengthened the Wednesday Night Lenten Services which resulted in large crowds and powerful worship. Pastor Wheeler gave outstanding service to the State of New Jersey during some of the most difficult times for African Americans in this state. He was a member of the Political Action Committee of the Black Ministers Council and was one of the major movers and voices on critical issues in the state. When some were intimidated and afraid, he displayed great faith and courage. As a result of his involvement New Jersey outlawed racial profiling, banned predator lending, approved needle exchange and repealed the death penalty.

Pastor Wheeler was a member of many Religious and Community Affiliations, just to name a few; President of the Baptist Minister's Night Conference of Newark & Vicinity, Second Vice President of Baptist Minister's Conference of Newark and Vicinity, Member of New Jersey State Mental Health Board, Member of the Executive Board H.A.N.D.S, Coached over twenty new churches starts in North Carolina, South Carolina, Indiana, Ohio and other states.

Pastor Wheeler served as Moderator of the Northeastern Region of the Christian Church Disciples of Christ. A member of the General and Regional Board of the Christian Church, Educational Ministries Board of the Christian Church. New Jersey is a better state today because Pastor Raiford S. Wheeler responded to the call of God upon his life.

He was preceded in death by one sister, Othelia Grace.

He leaves to cherish is memory; His Bride of thirty-seven wonderful years (Maxine) a son Raiford II (Celeste) of Perth Amboy, a daughter Sharetta Mark' of Edison, NJ, four siblings, Rev. Gussie Holden (Curtis) of Clayton, NC, William V. Wheeler (Vicki) of Jacksonville, FL, Marcella A. Wheeler of Spring Hill FL, Ogretta Phillips (Romus) of Somers Point, NJ, In-Laws: Patricia A. Puryear of Bloomfield, NJ, Hazel Smith (Rev. James) of Rockingham, NC, Deacon Lorenzo Everett of West Virginia, Christine Mims (Marshall) of Durham, NC, Min. Juanita Livingston (Sylvester) of Montclair, NJ, Percy D. Everett of Durham, NC, Henry J. Everett Jr. (Joyce) of Rockingham, NC, Evang. Veronica Pope (Timothy) of Junction City, KS, Lorraine Bethea (Karl) Chesapeake, VA, Sherman L. Everett (Virginia) of Rockingham, NC, Pastor Harriet Wallace (Gary) of Montclair, NJ, Deacon Anthony Q. Everett (Juana) of Canutillo, TX, Four god-children: Jessie Summers Jr., Duron Arnold, Sophia C. Wallace, Quason Arnold and a host of nieces, nephews, great nieces, great nephews, great-great nieces and great-great nephews, other in-laws and friends.

Order of Service

Hymn Of Celebration	"Hold To God's Unchanging Hands"
Prayer of Thanksgiving	Rev. Joseph Napier New Point Baptist Church • Newark New Jersey
Prayer of Comfort	Rev. Dr. Jacqueline Reeves St. James AME Church • Newark, New Jersey
Old Testament- Psalm 91: 1-9	Rev. Mark Birdsong Zion Baptist Church • Jersey City, New Jersey
Old Testament Patriarch- Job 14:13-16	Bishop Andre' Jackson New Vision Full Gospel Baptist Church • East Orange, New Jersey
New Testament Gospel- John 14:1-7.....	Rev. Victor Algarin New Life Christian Church (DOC) • Bloomfield, New Jersey
New Testament Epistles- 1 Thessalonians 4:14-17	Rev. Steven Webb New Life Christian Church (DOC) • Bloomfield, New Jersey
Music Ministry	
Words of Wisdom and Comfort For the Church	Rev. Dr. Clifford Wright Hope Church • Bound Brook, New Jersey
Words of Wisdom and Comfort For the Family	Rev. Dr. Willard Ashley Abundant Joy Community Church • Jersey City, New Jersey
Music Ministry	
Words Of Expression On Behave Of Community Mrs. Beverly Henderson-Hartsfield	
Words Of Reflections 1 to 2 MINUTES	
Rev. Gene Sykes- Friendship Baptist Church • Bayonne, New Jersey	
Rev. V. Hughes- Bethel Baptist Church • Orange, New Jersey	
Rev. William Freeman- Union Baptist Church • Orange, New Jersey	
Rev. Richard Grace, Camden, New Jersey	
Rev. Robert Morrast- St. Peters Missionary Baptist Church • Newark, New Jersey	
Denominational Representatives:	
Northeast Region Christian Church Disciples Of Christ Regional Minister	
Reverend Mary-Ann Glover Christian Church Disciples of Christ	
Northeast Region Christian Church	
Disciples Of Christ Former Regional Minister	
Reverend Lonnie F. Oates- St. Philips Christian Church (DOC)	
Black Ministers Council State of New Jersey	
Bishop Reginald T. Jackson- St. Matthew AME Church • Orange, New Jersey	
Retired Associate General Minister & Administrative Secretary of Christian Church	
John Foulkes (DOC)	
Acknowledgements/Obituary	Dr. Gloria Boseman Bethel Baptist Church • Orange, New Jersey
Liturgical Dancers	PACC
Presentation of the Eulogist	Bishop Robert T. Farrell Higher Praise Family Worship Center • East Orange, New Jersey
Solo	Emory Lee
Message Of Victory.....	Dr. Granville Seward Ministry Consultant
Music Ministry	"It's Alright To Dance"
Recessional	
Interment.....	Rosedale Cemetery • Orange, New Jersey

God Saw You Getting Tired

*God saw you getting tired,
When a cure was not to be.
So He wrapped his arms around you,
and whispered, "come to me".
You didn't deserve what you went through,
So He gave you rest.
God's Garden must be beautiful,
He only takes the best
And when I saw you sleeping,
So peaceful and free from pain
I could not wish you back
To suffer that again.*

Author Unknown

Acknowledgements

Grateful for the richness of his life.

The kindness of his heart and the love of his friends.

*The family of **Rev. Raiford S. Wheeler** thanks you for all the compassion and concern shown to us during his illness. May the Good Lord, who has welcomed Raiford bless you and your family.*

Professional Services Provided By

Woody "Home For Services"

163 Oakwood Ave. • Orange, NJ 07050

ph (973) 674-0814 • fax (973) 674-2055

www.honoryou.com

