

# RELIGION

SCRIPTURE OF THE WEEK  
PSALMS: Chapter 125



Rev. Willie B. Smith - Pastor - 1st AME Zion Church

## 1st AME Zion- "Love at first sight"

by Mattie Ann Callier-Spears

Rev. Willie B. Smith, born in Shreveport, Louisiana, came to Portland, Oregon in 1987 to fill the position of pastor of the 1st AME Zion Church, located at 4304 N. Vancouver Avenue.

Rev. Smith was appointed to 1st AME Zion by the Rt. Rev. Herman L. Anderson, presiding prelate of the 9th Episcopal District of the AME Zion Church. Although Rev. Smith had never been to Portland before, he has taken to the city and its climate like a duck to water.

When asked how he got placed here, his response was, "The Bishop made the choice. You see, the policy of the Methodist Church is that there must be compatibility between the church and the pastor."

Rev. Smith is a very articulate conversationalist. He's also a very proud father and husband. He beams as he shares information concerning his wife and children. His wife, Rhonda Jo (Harrison) Smith, was born in Mississippi, "by-way of Ohio", as he states it. She grew up in Ohio and then came to Pasadena, California to attend school. That's how they met.

A big smile came across his face.

Looking at the two standing together, you would never figure that their children were all grown up. There are four Smith siblings. Sandra Smith Golden, 29, married and has 4 children of her own. She lives here in Portland. Grace Smith Scott, 22, married and has 1 1/2 ("maybe 3/4th is closer to correct, says Rev. Smith") children. She lives in Altadena, California. Then, there are two boys: Mark, 21, who lives in Pasadena (married) and Raguell Akili, 18, a student at the Portland Community College Sylvania Campus.

Rev. Smith is one of 12 children. Mr. Vernon Smith (now deceased), didn't marry until he was 50 years young. When he did marry, he married Matty Smith, who was a very beautiful 13 year old Seminole Indian maiden.

Rev. Smith did not begin his ministry as a Methodist minister. In fact, he was born a Baptist and even organized the South Phoenix Baptist Church in Phoenix, Arizona in April of 1958. He then left Arizona in 1968 and went to California where he entered the Methodist ministry. He was appointed to the Shiloe AME Zion Church of Monrovia, California. He was there for 2 1/2 years until he was appointed to the 1st AME Zion Church of Pasadena, California, in 1971. In 1978, he became the pastor of the St. Peters Methodist Church in Los Angeles, California.

Bit by bit, inch by inch, and mile by mile he was gradually making his way to the Northwest. Next stop—Oregon.

When Rev. Smith arrived at his new church, he found that it was truly a new home; but not a NEW church. Last year 1st AME Zion celebrated its 125th Anniversary—making it the oldest black congregation in the Northwest. It was founded in 1862. "I feel so humble by sharing in that rich history. Right now, we're preparing for the 130th anniversary which will culminate in 1992," says Rev. Smith. 1st AME Zion Church was formally accepted into the Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon in February of 1988. 1st AME serves on all boards in the organization.

"I don't know just what it is but the congregation and I are having a wonderful time with each other. God has made this possible."

"Where there is groaning there is no growth. You can look forward to a long pastorship where you have compatibility...and...I foresee a long and lasting relationship with the 1st AME Church of Portland, Oregon."

"The congregation itself is experiencing the dynamics of a committed life as we join with the Christian Community in celebrating the Resurrected Christ."

### Letter to the Editor

July 7, 1988

Your article on New Hope Baptist Church brought many happy memories. Many names I knew casually. In 1952 we started day care in our house on NE Rodney. Among our students were Rev. & Mrs. Newtons sons. As we became acquainted Mother and I visited New Hope. We felt led of God to join with Rev. Newton in the work at New Hope. They picked us up Sunday mornings. I was privileged to help by teaching a Sunday School class and working with the evening youth group and then in the summer conducted a Vacation Bible School.

Recently a man stopped by to say he had received Christ as Savior at that Vacation Bible School.

Rev. Newton served as the first President of our Board of Directors when we were incorporated as a Center. As the Church grew Bro. Newton had to resign from the Board, as the Center grew my involvement in the Church was reduced to attendance. We were still Christian friends and his children attended our school.

Thank you for a good article. (For many good articles.)

Lovingly in Christ,  
Evelyn Collins

## One Day At A Time" Seminar at Unity Church

Rev. Joseph Wolpert will conduct a seminar for members of 12-step programs, health care professionals, counselors, educators, and clergy at the Unity Church of Portland on July 17th from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m.

The seminar will give an in-depth look at the spiritual principles implied in the 12-step program of recovery in Alcoholics Anonymous, Narcotics Anonymous, ALANON, NARANON, Overeaters Anonymous, Emotional Health Anonymous, Adult

Children of Alcoholics.

Rev. Wolpert says that the promises of these programs are based on upon unerring spiritual laws. "They are not simply hopes for the future, but are guarantees..."

Rev. Wolpert will be guest speaker at Sunday services at 9:15 and 11:00 A.M. on July 17th. Everyone is welcome to attend. A love offering will be collected. For more information any interested person may call Unity Church of Portland at 234-7441.

**HUNGRY?**  
*WE'RE OPEN!*  
**ALL NIGHT LONG**  
Wed. Thurs. Fri. & Sat.

**Besaw's**  
CATERING AVAILABLE

**Opened 24 Hours**

2301 N.W. SAVIER 228-3764

**Skin Deep**  
**Beauty and Barber Supply**

*Skin Deep Beauty And Barber Supplies •*  
*We Sell To The Public • We Carry Most Of The Products*  
*For Beauty Care And Pleasure • We Will Stock Your*  
*Order To Your Satisfaction!*  
*— Remember, Beauty Is Only Skin Deep!!! —*

1761 N.E. Dekum • Portland, Oregon 97211 • 283-5573  
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL

## FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

**KATHERINE H. OSWALD** 80  
8/21/07—7/8/88  
The husband of Joan Clifton. Burial at the Little Chapel of the Chimes Memorial Scattering Gardens. The Little Chapel of the Chimes Funeral Director.

**ELIZABETH ABRAM** 77  
6/29/11—7/10/88  
Funeral services will be held at Mt. Sinai C.O.G.I.C. on Northeast 10th and Beech Streets. The mother of Mrs. Minnie Minniweather. Mrs. Abram died on route to Columbus, Mississippi on the Am-Trak train in Monmouth, Illinois. Burial at Sunset Hills Cemetery. Vann and Vann Funeral Directors.

**OTIS COLE CLIFTON** 65  
7/28/22—7/7/88  
Funeral services will be held at The Little Chapel of the Chimes-Killingsworth. 430 N. Killingsworth at 11:00 a.m. July 11, 1988.

*Jesus Loves You!*

**Allen Temple CME Church**  
4236 N.E. Eighth Avenue  
(corner of 8th & Skidmore)  
Portland, Oregon 97211  
(503) 287-0261

*Phillip S. Nelson, Pastor* Psalm 34:3

The Christ Memorial Church  
will sponsor a

**CAR WASH  
CAKE WALK  
RUMMAGE SALE  
BAKE SALE  
BAR-B-Q**

on JULY 23, 1988  
9:00AM - 3:00PM

1552 N. Killingsworth Street  
Portland, OR 97217

These functions will be held on the parking lots of the church and are provided to help support the community programs (Jesus Against Drugs & Alcohol, J.A.D.A., Christ Memorial Clothes Closet, and Emergency Assistance) offered by the Christ Memorial Church.

## APPRECIATION CELEBRATION

On Sunday, July 24, 1988 Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church, 5828 N.E. 8th Avenue, Portland, Oregon will honor its pastor, Rev. Milton Green, with an Appreciation Celebration, as the end of his first year of service draws near.

The celebration will begin with the 11:00 A.M. Worship Service. Afternoon Service starts at 4:00 P.M.-6:00 P.M. Our many friends though out the community are invited to come and join in the celebration.

Rev. Milton Green, his wife Mrs. Essie Green and daughter Karen came to Bethel from Gregg Tabernacle A.M.E. Church, Kansas City, Missouri.

Rev. Green earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Elementary Education from Harris Teachers College, a Master of Arts Degree in Elementary Administration from Washington University, St. Louis and a Master of Divinity Degree from Eden Theological Seminary.

Rev. Green is a member of Albina Ministerial Alliance and Chairs the Methodist Ministers Fellowship.

## Life's Weaving

My life is but a weaving  
Between my God and me;  
I may not choose the colors,  
He knows what they should be  
For He can view the pattern  
Upon the upper side,  
While I can see it only  
On this, the under side.


Sometimes He weaveth sorrow,  
Which seemeth strange to me;  
But I will trust his judgement,  
And work on faithfully;  
'Tis He who fills the shuttle,  
He knows just what is best;  
So I shall weave in earnest  
And leave with Him the rest.

At last, when life is ended,  
With Him I shall abide,  
Then I may view the pattern  
Upon the upper side;  
Then I shall know the reason  
Why pain with joy entwined,  
Was woven in the fabric  
Of life that God designed.

**Walnut Park Lock & Key**  
533 N.E. Killingsworth  
503-288-6338

8:30-6:00 Mon.-Fri.  
10:00-5:00 Sat.

24 hr. Emergency Service

  
**Albina Ministerial Alliance**  
285-0493

Public Service of the *Portland-Observer*

YOU ARE WELCOME TO WORSHIP AT  
84 N. E. Killingsworth • 281-0499  
"A warm spirit of fellowship always"

*To the Glory of God*  
**The Ark of Safety**  
**Church of God in Christ**

Worship 11:15 a.m.  
Worship 6:30 p.m.  
Evangelistic 8:00 p.m.  
Worship Tuesday Friday: Noon Day Prayer  
Prayer  
Friday "The Pastor Speaks" 7:30 p.m.  
Saturday Morning Prayer 9:00 a.m.  
"Showers of Blessings" broadcast Sunday morning, 10:00 A.M. Station KAAR 148JAM Dial

**JURISDICTION #1**  
**HEADQUARTER'S CHURCH**  
**GREATER SOLID ROCK C.O.G.I.C.**  
1705 N.E. DEKUM • PORTLAND, OR 97211  
Phone: (503) 283-1524  
**PASTOR & BISHOP**  
The REV. A. R. HOPKINS

**CHURCHES IN DISTRICT**

<p><b>McKINNEY TEMPLE</b> ELDER: E.C. SUELL 1737 N.E. ALBERTA ST. PORTLAND, OR 97211</p> <p><b>CHRIST MEMORIAL CHURCH</b> ELDER: R.L. TATE 1552 N. KILLINGSWORTH ST. PORTLAND, OR 97217</p> <p><b>BETHEL TEMPLE</b> SUPT.: A. SHANKLE 1545 SOUTH BROOKLYN AVE. EUGENE, OR 97403</p> <p><b>ST. LUKE MEMORIAL</b> ELDER: L. ADAMS 2700 N.E. SUMNER ST. PORTLAND, OR 97211</p> <p><b>GREATER PEACE</b> SUPT.: E. WILSON 4009 N. MISSOURI ST. PORTLAND, OR 97227</p> <p><b>FREE WILL CHURCH</b> FOR ALL NATIONS ELDER: THURMAN HOLMES 420 MARKET ST. KLAMATH FALLS, OR 97603</p>	<p><b>WILLIAMS TEMPLE</b> ELDER: M. WALKER 241 N.E. HANCOCK PORTLAND, OR 97212</p> <p><b>NAZARENE C.O.G.I.C.</b> SUPT.: L. DOTSEY 9119 N. DRUMMOND ST. PORTLAND, OR 97217</p> <p><b>LIGHT HOUSE C.O.G.I.C.</b> ELDER: T. MOORE 1123 N.E. FREMONT PORTLAND, OR 97211</p> <p><b>CORNERSTONE COMM. CHURCH</b> SUPT.: B.E. JOHNSON 2216 N.E. KILLINGSWORTH ST. PORTLAND, OR 97211</p> <p><b>La GRANDE C.O.G.I.C.</b> ELDER: I.D. LOWE 1303 'T' STREET La GRANDE, OR 97850</p> <p><b>SALEM MISSION C.O.G.I.C.</b> SUPT.: A. SHANKLE 4308 HILL ROSE ST. SALEM, OR 97309</p>
--	---

**"JULY 11-17, 1988 • STATE CONVOCATION"**  
**CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST**