

RELIGION

Scripture of the Week

Scripture of the Week Micah 6:8

Bethel AME Honors Mc Elroy



J. Rochelle Mc Elroy

BY MATTIE ANN CALLIER-SPEARS
Fifteen years ago, in December of 1976 to be exact, J. Rochelle Mc Elroy, along with her husband, Howard and their three small children (one daughter, Nicole, a student at Spelman College in Atlanta, Georgia; two sons, Howard, Jr., a student at University of Oregon and Kevin a student at Jesuit High School), arrived in the city of Portland. The Mc Elroy family's membership had been transferred from the Wayman AME Church in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

On Sunday, July 21, 1991 at 3:00 pm, the Bethel AME Church will honor Mrs. Mc Elroy by holding a special program in her honor. Why? Just to say, "Thank You," for all the hard work that she has done for so many years in the department of Music.

Rochelle is a very humble laborer in God's vineyard. She toils for long, arduous hours not looking for any rewards from those she instructs; but she is seeking the ultimate gratification and reward. "Well, done! My good and faithful servant. Enter now into the Kingdom."

Rochelle's musical interest and teaching did not begin in school but at home. She demonstrated a love for music at an early age. Her mother recognized this and nurtured her by giving her instructions. Then, under Mrs. Ruth Ferguson of Sandersville, Georgia, she studied music in high school. Following graduation, she continued to pursue her studies in music at Spelman College under the auspices of Willis Law-

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Dr. Joe S. Hardie, Pastor
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Other Guests Include:
The St. Mark Church Choir
Greater Faith Church Choir
Artie Christmas
Joe Johnson & Malcom Jackson
Sabrina Bryant
Johnny Wilson
The Gospel Trumpet
Rev. Ira Hammond
The Public Is Invited

Emanuel Hospital & Health Center, Portland, proposes to acquire an MRI scanner. On June 21, 1991 the OHP notified the applicant that additional information is required before a determination can be made as to whether this project is subject to certificate of need review.

rence James and Dr. Wendell P. Whalum.

However, Rochelle, to the dismay of her parents, changed her major to Psychology. "My folks had sent me to college to receive a degree in Music. But--you know how kids are when they get on campus. Away from their parents...And et cetera. I began thinking and knew that I would need a degree in a subject that would land me a good paying job following graduation." With Psychology as her major and a minor in Choral Arts, Rochelle's life's journey began. She began, in her freshman year, traveling with the Atlanta University Moorehouse and Spelman College Mixed Chorus. She was the accompanist with Spelman Glee Club which consisted of about sixty voices. Traveling and studying. Traveling and Studying. At the same time, she also participated in the Music Department in the African Methodist Episcopal Church's third, fourth, fifth and sixth districts as their Director of Music, Choir Director, general Instructor of Music, Minister of Music, and developed and conducted Music Workshops.

"The pursuit of excellence is a Godly quality. I believe that music will soothe the savage beast..."

As the Minister of Music over Bethel AME Church's music department, Rochelle has served under four dynamic spiritual leaders: Rev. A. Lee Henderson, Rev. L. Fisher Hines, Rev. Matthew A. Watley and the current pastor, Rev. Milton Green.

Rochelle shared, "I was blessed to

have been born into a Christian family. Serving in the church just comes natural. You don't have to work as hard. It's a certain expectation. It was pleasing before I even knew that it was pleasing. You feel comfortable. You just enjoy doing it."

Not only has Bethel been blessed with the talents of this multi-faceted woman, but so has First AME Zion. Every second Sunday in the month, Rochelle is over the Sanctuary Choir at First AME Zion where Rev. Willie Smith is the senior pastor. On the first and third Sundays, she is serving at Bethel as the Minister of Music over the Cathedral Choir. Each year both choirs celebrate a separate Christmas Vesper. And the Cathedral Choir at Bethel holds its annual Gospel Concert in September.

In the fifteen years Rochelle has served as Minister of Music, she has worked in conjunction and cooperatively with other musicians in and around the city of Portland such as Tim Stafford, Joan Deland, Calvin Allmon, Claude Bowles, Dorothy Davis, Danny Osborne, Reginald Pearsall, Terry Snowden, Gale Hardy, John Gainer of Eugene and she is presently working with Mrs. Virginia McClinton, organist. These people have served as organists, assistant directors, concert musicians and associate organists during workshops and musicals. She genuinely appreciates their dedication and cooperation.

For those readers who are unable to figure out why Bethel is making such a fuss over Rochelle, let me tell you why: working with two choirs at two different locations, holding two separate rehearsals every week, planning programs, rehearsing for concerts, selecting music, playing for unscheduled events, traveling with the pastors, taking care of family, driving back and forth, back and forth...No! She's not a super woman. She's just blessed. Yes, a woman blessed by God and who has committed her gift of music to the service of the Lord.

"The pursuit of excellence" says Rochelle "is a Godly quality. I believe that music will soothe the savage beast in the souls of man. The ministry of music takes on many realms. There are people who may not relate to the spoken Word but can easily relate to the Word in musical form. For as far back as we can remember, the book of Psalms has been a blueprint for those who labor in the ministry of music."

"I have endeavored to present Christ so that people everywhere might be inspired, encouraged and saved."

I asked Rochelle if she specialized in a certain form of music. Her response

was, "I enjoy choral music, anthems, hymns and spirituals. This is the area of music in which I received my training. I have even worked with choirs outside of the AME church. Yet there is an entire generation of young people who do not relate to the old hymns, Negro Spirituals, and just forget about anthems. They don't seem to have an ear for it!" she exclaimed. "The African Methodist Episcopal Church's history is told through the Negro Spirituals. I have a problem with this generation and their pulling away from what is heritage and tradition. It is so unfortunate that a lot of our traditions are dying."

In addition to the care and upkeep of her family and the tasks set before her at the churches, Rochelle performs as a Volunteer Therapist in nursing homes. She plays and sings for the alzheimer patients. She found that the loud and brash sounds of today's music are irritating to them. She gives them soothing songs. Melodious hymns of their youth. "Their favorite is 'Just As I Am.' You can't assume that these people are all saved just because of their age. But every time this song is sung, it never fails to bring tears to their eyes and they join in with singing or just tapping their toes. I praise God for blessing me and allowing me the chance to share this gift, that He has given to me, with others."

In the month of October, 1991, Rochelle has, on one of her many burners, plans for a Music Workshop to be entitled "AN EVENING WITH NEGRO SPIRITUALS." This should prove to be an event that we should all look forward to attending.

"I count it a privilege to be a part of the great ministry of Jesus Christ," Rochelle concludes, "thru the art form of sacred music. I have endeavored to present Christ so that people everywhere might be inspired, encouraged and saved. My reward is having had the challenge to turn choirs around, helping them to minister in song and helping them feel the anointing of the Holy Spirit by singing God's Praises."

"You know what? I don't think this kind of program has been attempted by anyone else. Rochelle is a very competent musician, a faithful servant of God and she does an excellent job of teaching. The only proper thing for us to do would be to honor her for her service to us and to God's program. Furthermore, Rochelle's dad was an elder in the AME church so she comes to us with a rich heritage. We're very grateful to have her her."
-Rev. Milton Green, pastor of Bethel AME



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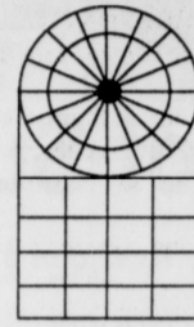
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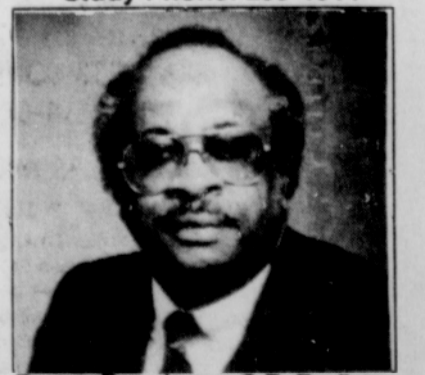
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Pastor, Rev. James C.E. Faulkner

Theme: Whatever you're going to do for the Lord, do it now.

I Peter iv.11

The M.W.St. Joseph Grand Lodge

The M.W. St. Joseph Grand Lodge Ancient Free and Accepted Scottish Rite Masons and Mt. Olive Grand chapter Order of Eastern Star of Oregon closed the 32nd Grand Communication June 16-22, 1991.

The session was well attended. Opening with the St. John's Day Worship at the Mt. Gillard Baptist Church, the Rev. H. Calloway, pastor.

Closing with a gala King and Queen banquet, at the Matt Dishman Community Center, with guest speaker, Congresswoman Margaret Carter.

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Church Phone: 287-7457



Rev. Dr. Joe S. Hardie, Pastor

Sunday School 9:30 AM.

Sunday Worship 11:00 AM.

Bible Study, Wednesday 5:30 PM.

Prayer Service, Wednesday 6:00 PM.

He That Loveth Not, Knoweth Not God;

For God Is love I John 4:8

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