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Festival's new season*

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makes it a
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The Portland Observer 45

'City of Roses'



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Established in 1970
Committed to Cultural Diversity *45 years of community service*



PHOTO BY OLIVIA OLIVIA/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Dr. Bishop C.T. Wells continues a 50-year legacy of service to the community as senior pastor of Emmanuel Church, a diverse congregation serving north and northeast Portland which was started by his father Bishop A.A. Wells.

50 Years of Praise

Emmanuel Church looks back and ahead

BY OLIVIA OLIVIA
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Emmanuel Church is getting ready to celebrate 50 years of ministry, community service, and helping Portland's vulnerable populations, with a weekend of music and sermons.

Dr. Bishop C.T. Wells, his wife First Lady DeAngelo Wells, the entire Emmanuel Church family, and ministries from around the country will be celebrating the 50th year for this revered local ministry with a grand 3-day celebration, Friday, April 10 through Sunday, April 12.

"We are preparing to make a documentary on the history of the church and how it was formed, and a plan for the future," said Bishop C.T. Wells. "If we don't have a plan for the future, we might as well be

living in the past. We have a great history and a great pedigree here."

Wells points to his father, Bishop A.A. Wells, who founded the congregation and serves as a retired church leader, saying "he would want us to honor the past and celebrate the present while we are also preparing for the future."

The younger Wells has expanded the church's reach in a new state-of-the-art sanctuary and multi-purpose facility at 1033 N. Summer St. He has also led in the creation of a shelter at the former Comfy Inn in north Portland's Kenton neighborhood, providing sanctuary to women in need.

The church has fed and helped house hundreds of community members through Emmanuel's Going Beyond the Walls outreach ministry, which has

helped dress houseless and low-income Portlanders, and keep them warm during the coldest times of the year.

The anniversary celebration will embrace all the years of outreach in the community and the success for a historically black congregation that grew into a culturally diverse church during a time when such organizations struggled to have as large a reach as Emmanuel has come into.

On Friday, Emmanuel will kick-off the celebration with a Gospel Concert at 7 p.m. featuring national recording artists Todd Galbreth, Shawn McLemore, and Zacardi Cortez. Local gospel artists also partic-

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