Bethel A.M.E. Church

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From The Youth Of Bethel Church
By TOINETTE M. RANDOLPH
Sophomore at Hampton University
Hampton, Virginia

Thank You Rev. McAshan

Now is the time for the youth of Bethel Church to thank our pastor, Rev. Eugene E. McAshan, for his sincere kindness. Not many people realize the true talents that he possesses, and the support that he has shown the youth. I am sure that by the time you finish reading this article, that you will agree with me. Rev. McAshan is a truly caring sincere and talented man who Bethel Church is lucky to call "one of their own."

Rev. McAshan is the type of minister that will assess a situation and act in a manner which he finds necessary. There was a time when he looked at the youth of the church and found that the direction they were heading in was not best suited for the leaders of tomorrow. Rev. McAshan listened to the needs of the youth and implemented a plan. He decided that what was needed was a mini-seminar which would take place at an opportune time for all.

The mini-seminar consisted of a series of lessons. The first lesson was an introductory warm-up in which he tried to make the youth feel more comfortable with the controversial subject matter he chose to lecture on. This was human sexuality. I know many are thinking that this is a subject which is taught in school. However, I would like to point out that Rev. McAshan ingeniously combined human sexuality with religion to make a biological Sunday school lesson.

In the second lesson, Rev. McAshan stuck to topics which would allow the youth to have discussions and still feel comfortable. He discussed subjects on marriage and divorce, dating, and heavy petting. The third lesson was comprised of more in depth subjects. Some of these were, pre-marital sex, abortion, and suicide. Rev. McAshan clearly pointed out sections of the Bible which teach us how to govern our lives in reference to these topics. This gave the youth some guide which they could follow even when they are not sitting in a church congregation. He helped to teach the youth that as in school, when you are confused about the spelling of a word, you refer to the dictionary — accordingly, you can refer to the Bible about an uncertainty in life. I feel that this is a very important lesson which we as youth need to learn.

Rev. McAshan's mini-seminar did more than just teach, it helped to unify the church youth. When everyone realized that they had the same questions running unanswered through their minds, they felt a closeness. Also, Rev. McAshan's open-mindedness allowed the youth to relax enough to get to know each other. A demeanor such as that is not learned, it is a given talent. Nevertheless, he did not deviate from the purpose of compromising openness for education.

It is obvious that Rev. McAshan is multi-talented. He is a teacher, a leader, a role model, a minister, and most important, a friend. I feel that his genuine effects should finally be acknowledged. THANK YOU REV. McASHAN, for being there when we, the youth, needed you the most!

First Lady Speaker
For Pew Rally

A Pew Rally was held sponsored by the Missionary Society of Bethel on Sunday evening June 5 at 6:30 p.m. Sis. Besse Robinson chaired the occasion. The Pew Rally was a concerted effort of all four units of the Missionary Society. The affair was well attended and though the planning of this particular Pew Rally was almost spontaneous in that it had been planned only five days prior, the event was also financially successful.

The Ladies Usher Board No. 1 was on hand to render service and music was given by the Senior Choir and Gospel Singers. Solos were given by Sis. Yvonne Patterson, a member of Calvary C.M.E. Church here in the city as only she can sing them.

The highlight of the evening came through the message that was brought to us by our "First Lady" and President of the Society, Sis. Jewel McAshan. Her message was truly inspirational. The subject: "Is There A Missionary In The House?" The scriptural reference was taken from St. Luke 10:2 — "Therefore He said unto them, the harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few; pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers into his harvest." She stated that the word Missions (Plural) is a noun. The name of a person, place, or thing, but that the Mission (Singular) becomes a verb, and verb is a helping word. A Missionary then becomes a helper, a doer, because we are admonished by Christ to become doers and not hearers only. We are to give, take, share, go, do, make, love, work, bring, support, help, ... and the list goes on and on, but we are to be DOERS.

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