

*Service of Triumph
for*



Elware S. Gaskin

March 9, 1919 - December 10, 1997

Monday, December 15, 1997

11:00 a.m.

*Zion United Methodist Church
Lexington Park, Maryland*

Antoine C. Love, Pastor

Rev. Roderick McClanahan, Officiating

Obituary

Almighty God, in His wise and divine providence, saw fit to call from labor to reward our beloved, Elvare Luvenia Lucretia Smith Gaskin, who departed this life on Wednesday, December 10, 1997, at her home.

Elvare, daughter of the late Mary B. Smith Hewlett and Robert J. Smith, was born in Scotland, Maryland on March 9, 1919. As a child, she attended the Scotland Elementary School and the Cardinal Gibbons Institute. To complete her education, Elvare moved to Charles County, Maryland, where in 1936 she graduated from the Pomomkey High School. Realizing the importance of education, she continued her academic pursuit by studying at the Bowie Normal School, where she matriculated her Teaching Certificate, and at the Morgan State University, where she received her Bachelor of Science Degree in Elementary Education. Elvare pursued graduate studies at the George Washington University, the University of Maryland and the Bowie State University. Her academic efforts lead her to obtain her Advanced Professional Teaching Certificate in Special Education.

While pursuing her educational goals, she began her long and illustrious career of teaching. She started her career at the Gravelly Knoll School in Oakville, Maryland, where she taught first through sixth grades. Elvare's assignments in St. Mary's County included St. Inigoes School, the old Jarboesville School, and the George Washington Carver Elementary School. Due to her potential, she was promoted to serve as the Coordinator of Special Education at the Felix Johnson Education Center and later as the first principal of the Green Holly School. Her last assignment was to serve St. Mary's County as a Pupil Personnel Worker. Elvare concluded her brilliant career after 46 years of untiring public service.

Beyond being a dedicated educator in the Public School System, Elvare was equally dedicated to fulfill her life as a wife and a mother. She was united in Holy Matrimony to her beloved husband, Robert Gaskin, in which they shared a special bond of love, devotion, and understanding. To this union, five children served as the source of joy and inspiration.

An additional source of joy and fulfillment in Elvare's life was her dedication to the church. At an early age she joined St. Luke United Methodist Church in Scotland, Maryland. Later in her life she transferred to Zion United Methodist Church in Lexington Park, Maryland. She gave untiringly of her time and talents. She served the church as: Administrative Council Chairperson; member of the Staff - Parish Relations Committee; Nurturing Ministries Chairperson; Lay Delegate to Annual Conference; member of Outreach Committee; member and president of the Zion Adult Choir as well as the United Methodist Women; and a member of the Board of Trustees.

Order of Worship

*"It is the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed,
because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning:
great is Thy faithfulness!"*

Lamentations 3:22-23

PreludeMrs. Sherri Fenwick
Organist

Call to WorshipReverend Roderick McClanahan
Pastor, First Missionary Baptist Church
Lexington Park, Maryland

Hymn of Praise #518.....*"O Thou In Whose Presence"*

InvocationReverend Mae Harrison
Pastor, Hopkins United Methodist Church
Highland, Maryland

Readings from Holy Scripture

Old Testament - Isaiah 12:2-6.....Ms. Diana Lopez
Zion Adult Choir

Epistle - Romans 8:12-18.....Mr. Ronald Flowers
Zion Adult Choir

Gospel - John 14:1-7Reverend Paula Payne
Pastor, Westphalia United Methodist Church
Upper Marlboro, Maryland

Solo *"Give Us This Day"*Mrs. Tia Bryant
Zion Adult Choir

Words of Comfort

Mrs. Delores Bailey
Zion United Methodist Church, Lexington Park, Maryland

Mr. Bert Abell, President
Maryland Retired Teachers Association, St. Mary's County

Ms. Zilpha Pinkney, President
Washington East District, United Methodist Women

Reverend Purnell Moody, Pastor
Bridgeville Charge, Bridgeville, Delaware

Musical TributeZion Adult Choir

Acknowledgements and ObituaryDr. Francine Hawkins
St. Peter Claver Catholic Church
Ridge, Maryland

Hymn of Consolation #377“It Is Well With My Soul”

EulogyPastor Antoine Love

Recessional Hymn #525“We’ll Understand It Better By and By”



“The Clock of Life”

*The clock of life is wound but once
and no man has the power to tell
just when the hands will stop,
at late or early morn.*

*Now is the only time we own,
so live, love, and work with a will for Christ.*

*Place no faith in tomorrow,
for the clock may then be still.*

There was no task too great or too small for Elvare to undertake in her service to the church and community.

Elvare was actively involved in her community. She participated with the St. Mary's Hospital Auxiliary, The Maryland State Retired Teachers Association, the St. Mary's County Big Brothers and Big Sisters program, Partners with Carver Elementary Volunteer program, the Fidelity Chapter #60, Order of Eastern Star PHA, the Delicatos and the Links, Inc.

Because of her faithful service and leadership, Elvare received numerous awards. In 1971, she was nominated as one of the Outstanding and Distinguished Community Leaders of America.

Elvare leaves to cherish her memory her devoted children: Joan Johnson of Baltimore, Maryland; Robert Gaskin of Mitchellville, Maryland; Alonzo Gaskin of Dameron, Maryland; Bernadette Lewis of Scotland, Maryland; and Lauraether Smith of Lexington Park, Maryland; 11 grandchildren, 14 great-grandchildren, one great-great grandchild; one loving aunt, Marie Barnes; two daughters-in-law; three sons-in-law; and a host of loving relatives and friends.



The Road to Eternity

*Life is but a stopping place,
A pause in what's to be,
A resting place along the road
To sweet eternity.
We all have different journeys,
Different paths along the way,
We all were meant to learn some things,
But never meant to stay
Our destination is a place
Far greater than we know.
For some, the JOURNEY'S quicker,
For some, the journey's slow.
And when the journey finally ends,
We'll claim a great reward,
And find an everlasting peace,
Together with the Lord.*

– Anonymous

The Family

Pallbearers

from the Joseph A. Eagan Lodge #103

Frank Baines
Reginald Brown
Floyd Harris

Gary Turner
Lewis Whelan
Sonny Woods

Acknowledgement

We, the family of the late Elvare S. Gaskin, would like to express our sincere appreciation for the many acts and expressions of compassion, kindness, and love shown to us during this time of great loss. May God ever bless you!

Interment

St. Luke United Methodist Church Cemetery
Scotland, Maryland

Following the interment, we invite you to join us for a repass at the Ridge Volunteer Firehouse in Ridge, Maryland.



Services Entrusted to
Adams Funeral Home, P.A.
Aquasco, Maryland

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