

*Celebrating the Life
of
Ebenezer Welsh, Jr.*

**Sunrise
February 10, 1953**

**Sunset
March 29, 2021**



April 15, 2021

**Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. Omega Service
10:30 am**

**The Service of Remembrance and Triumph
11:00 am**

**Tindley Temple United Methodist Church
750-762 S. Broad Street
Philadelphia, PA 19146**

**Bishop Alfred Johnson, Eulogist
Mr. Theodore Thomas, Jr., Organist/Pianist
Rev. Robert Johnson, Senior Pastor and Officiant**

Obituary Ebenezer Welsh, Jr.

Ebenezer Welsh, Jr., born on February 10, 1953 in Philadelphia, was the only child of Ebenezer Welsh, Sr. and Marjorie Welsh. His parents, grandparents and close relatives affectionately called him "Junior." Many of his friends called him "Eb" or "Ebbie." He was baptized as a baby at Tindley Temple United Methodist Church. Later, as an adult, he reaffirmed his faith by being baptized by immersion at Tindley Temple. Ebenezer represented a third generation worshipping together at Tindley Temple every week. His grandparents, the late Frank and Mary Welsh, doted on their only grandchild as they did their only child, Ebenezer, Sr. They had migrated from South Carolina during the early 1900's and had joined Tindley Temple during the pastorate of Rev. Dr. Charles A. Tindley. Ebenezer, Jr.'s parents and grandparents were owners of the Welsh Funeral Home, located at 26th and Dauphin Streets in North Philadelphia. They ran this successful black owned business for many years.

As a child, Ebenezer was very active at Tindley Temple. He attended Sunday School, when the late Ralph Jones followed by the late Reese C. Whye served as superintendents. He came to church every week. He became a member of the Junior Ushers under the leadership of the late Judge Levan Gordon, Boy Scouts led by the late James Hines and Youth Fellowship led by the late Ms. Florence Orr. As an adult, he joined the Young Adult Fellowship and played trombone in the brass quintet during high holiday services under the late Dr. J. Edward Hoy, Organist-Director. Ebenezer took great joy in sharing his talents with his church family.

Ebenezer was educated in the Philadelphia public school system. He graduated from Northeast High School in 1970. Eb was very active in the music programs throughout his tenure in the Philadelphia schools, having started taking trombone lessons in elementary school. He also studied piano privately. After high school graduation, he matriculated at Temple University majoring in Music Education with a concentration in trombone from 1970-1975. During his tenure at Temple University, Ebenezer pledged Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. Eb was on the Spring 1971 'Psi Seven' line. He was also a member of the Jazz and Marching bands and the ROTC program. After leaving Temple, he completed a diploma program at Computer Learning Center in 1979.

As an adult, Ebenezer was employed as a postal clerk, sorting mail beginning in 1970 for over 25 years until his retirement. After 2005 he worked as a Customer Support Representative by creating positive solutions for clients at various companies, e.g. Verizon, Citizens Bank, Colonial Penn Life Insurance Company and various mortgage companies. He certainly had the pleasant personality to be successful in this line of work.

In 1984, he married his childhood sweetheart, Ethel Mae Pines, at her cousins' home. This was a second marriage for both of them. Ethel had started to attend Tindley Temple United Methodist Church regularly as a teenager, although she visited it as a child. It was the church of her mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. Later that year, they were blessed with the

birth of their only child, Marjorie Joan Welsh. Margie represented 5 generations on her mother's side and 4 paternal generations of Tindley Temple membership. Ebenezer and Ethel brought Margie to worship with her older step-brother, Joseph Pollard, and Gilmore cousins Jacquelyne, Janet and Mike, Jr. A highlight of the family was the multigenerational Sunday dinners at Ethel's and Mike Gilmore, Esq.'s grandmother's house that included the Murray, Gilmore, Pines and Welsh family members at 132 N. 52nd St. What joyous times!

Ebenezer had been suffering ill health for quite a while yet he maintained his cheerful disposition. He continued playing trombone. He played in several instrumental ensembles and jazz bands until his health prohibited him from playing. He enjoyed following the Philadelphia sports teams, especially the Eagles. During the game you could find Ebenezer's sports comments on Facebook. Ebenezer enjoyed attending regularly Tindley Temple's virtual worship services. He took great pleasure talking with and encouraging his pastor, his fraternity brother, Rev. Robert Johnson. He faithfully logged in to Facebook daily, giving his followers his health updates, encouraging words, prayers or wishing everyone a good day and a benediction.

On March 29, 2021, Ebenezer gave his final benediction. God looked down, saw His faithful servant and called him home to take his rest. "Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." Matthew 11:28 (KJV).

Left to cherish his memory are his daughter, Marjorie Joan Welsh and his granddaughter, Shynique Ethel Mae Leigh, both of Chester, PA; a stepson, Joseph M. Pollard of New Hanover, NJ; cousins-in-law Michael D. Gilmore, Esq., and Dr. Jane Murray Gilmore, both of Laverock, PA and Rev. Charles A. Gilmore of Lincoln, DE and their families.

This appeared on Ebenezer's Facebook page almost daily:



The Order of Worship

Pre-Service

Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. Omega Service

Pre-Service Music

The Service of Remembrance and Triumph for Ebenezer Welsh, Jr.

Rev. Robert Johnson, Officiant

Procession: Sentence Reading: Clergy and Family

Opening Congregational Hymn: "We are Tossed and Driven"- C.A. Tindley UMH # 525

Scripture Readings:

Old Testament: ISAIAH 40:28-31 (ESV)

Doris Reddick

"Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and His understanding no one can fathom. He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint."

New Testament: REVELATION 21:1-4 (ESV)

Melanie DuPree

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away."

I THESSALONIANS 4:13-18 (ESV)

John Crapper

“Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope. For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in Him. According to the Lord’s word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.”

Prayer of Comfort

Song: “Beams of Heaven” – C.A. Tindley

Michael D. Gilmore, Esq., Baritone

Acknowledgement of Condolences, Cards and Resolutions:

Words of Comfort and Reflections from Friends:

In respect to the Family and memory of the Deceased, please limit your remarks to two (2) minutes.

Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.

Friends

Reading of Obituary Silently

Hymn of Preparation: “Blessed Assurance”

UMH #369

Eulogy: Rev. Dr. Alfred Johnson, Retired Bishop of the United Methodist Church

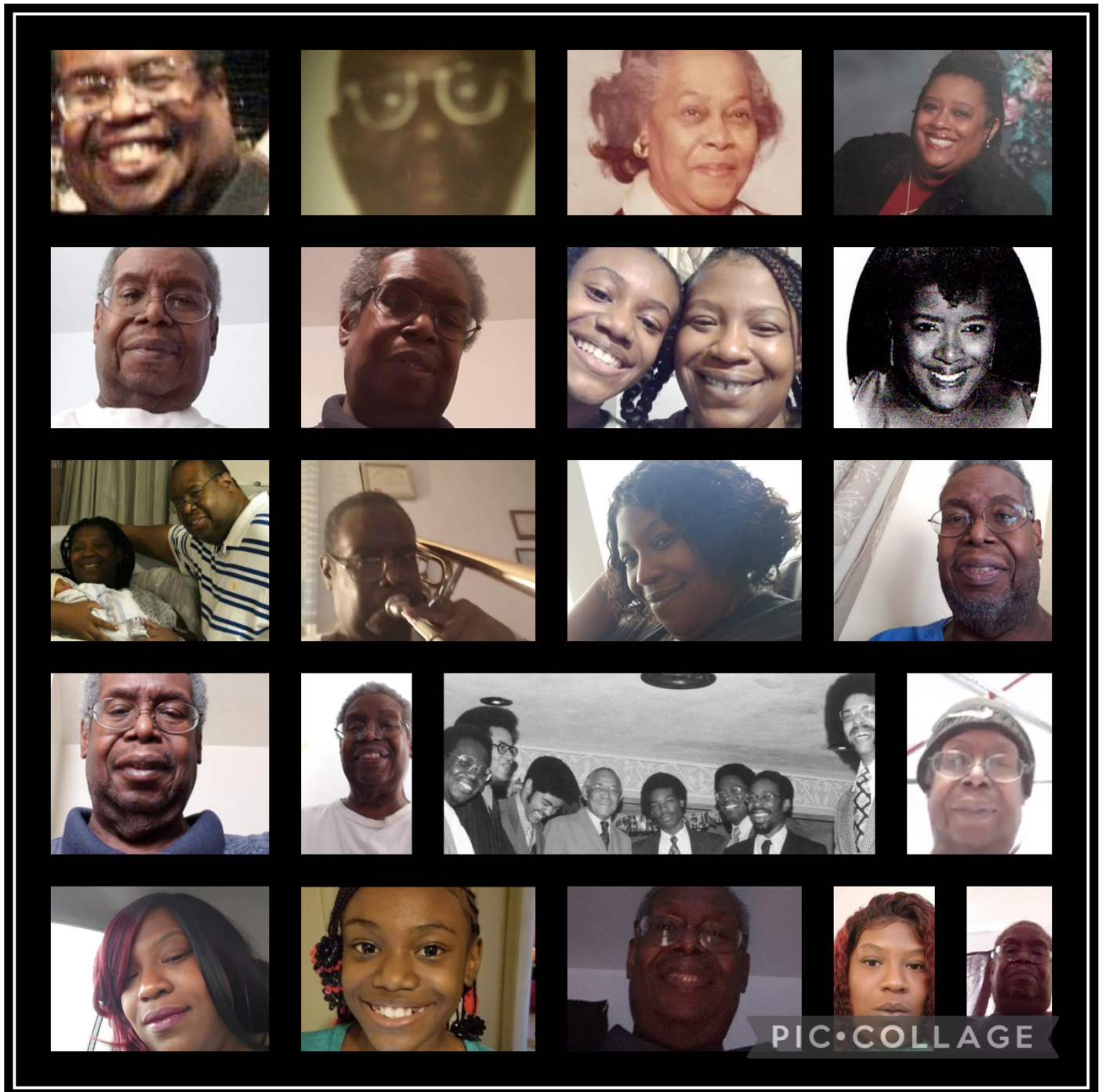
Invitation to Christian Discipleship:

Closing Hymn: “When We All Get to Heaven”

UMH #701

Some of the Joys of Ebenezer's Life:

**His Late Parents, Late Wife, Ethel, Daughter, Marjorie, Granddaughter,
Shynique, Fraternity brothers, Church, Friends & Trombone**





Just one more time, I wish
I could hear your voice
Unfortunately, life hasn't
Given me that choice
I feel lost and dazed
In our memories, I seek solace
Dad, your hugs will forever
Be my happy place...
RIP

LIFE

Life is just a stepping-stone
A pause before we make it home
A simple place to rest and be,
Until we reach eternity.
Everyone has a life journey,
A path to take with lots to see
God guides our steps along the way,
But we were never meant to stay.

Our final destination is a place
Filled with love, His majesty and grace
Today we celebrate the life of a loved one
Who has gone before us, the race he has won.

His journey has now ended,
His spirit has ascended
Claiming the great reward
With Jesus, our Lord.

- Prayers for Special Help

I'm Free

Don't grieve for me, for now I'm free.
I'm following the path God laid for me.
I took His hand when I heard him call,
I turned my back and left it all.
I could not stay another day,
To laugh, to love, to work or play.
Tasks left undone must stay that way.
I found that place at the close of day.
If my parting has left a void,
then fill it with remembered joy.
A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss,
Ah yes, these things I too will miss.
Be not burdened with times of sorrow.
I wish you the sunshine of tomorrow.
My life's been full, I've savored much.
Good friends, good times,
a loved one's touch.
Perhaps my time seemed all too brief.
Don't lengthen it now with undue grief.
Lift up your heart and share with me...
God wanted me now,
He set me free.

Acknowledgments

The family wishes to express their sincere appreciation for all the kindnesses, assistance and services rendered during their bereavement. A personal acknowledgment will be made at a later date.

Special Thanks to:

All of the participants in this service

Pastor Robert Johnson, Members and Friends of Tindley Temple United Methodist Church

Bishop Alfred Johnson, Eulogist

Mr. Theodore Thomas, Jr., Minister of Music at Tindley Temple United Methodist Church.

Michael D. Gilmore, Esq., uncle of Marjorie Welsh and fraternity brother of the late Ebenezer Welsh, Jr., for singing.

Dr. Jane Murray Gilmore, aunt of Marjorie Welsh, who prepared and coordinated the services and designed the program assisted by Melanie DuPree and Michael D. Gilmore, Esq.

All of the musicians.

Members and Friends of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.

All Friends.

Wood Funeral Home, for professional services
5537 W. Girard Ave.
Philadelphia, PA 19131
(215) 878-5416
cwoodfh.com