Remember this History Maker

Gayraud Stephen Wilmore

Biography

Writer, historian, educator and theologian Gayraud Stephen Wilmore was born on December 20, 1921 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. His mother was a domestic worker and his father, a World War I veteran, was an office clerk. His parents were active in the community where he grew up, and his father founded the first Black American Legion Post in Pennsylvania. He attended Central High School later renamed Benjamin Franklin where he was active in the drama club and wrote for the student newspaper. In 1937 Wilmore, just a junior in high school won a citywide contest for an essay he had written on Benjamin Franklin. He was also a member of the Young Communist League; he left the organization several years later after he discovered “he would not be allowed to think for himself.” He received his high school diploma in 1938. After high school, his studies at Lincoln University were interrupted when he was drafted into the army. As a “Buffalo Soldier,” he served with the all black 92nd Infantry division in Italy. In 1943, he received his call to the ministry while dodging bullets in a foxhole during the war. He received his bachelor’s of arts degree in 1947 and his bachelor’s of divinity in 1950 from Lincoln University. He was also installed as the pastor of the Second Presbyterian Church in Westchester, Pennsylvania in 1950, and would serve that congregation for three years. In 1951, Wilmore helped integrate Westchester elementary schools; his son was the first black student to attend an all white school. In 1953, he began his work with students as an associate executive with the United Presbyterian Church’s Department of Social Education and Action, a position he held for five years. From 1959 to 1963, Wilmore was an assistant professor of social ethics at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. From there, he served as the executive director of the United Presbyterian Commission on Religion and Race until 1972. In that position, he helped to organize and train ministers who participated in boycotts and protests in the South during the Civil Rights movement. From 1972-1974, he taught Social Ethics at Boston University School of Theology, and then taught Black church studies at Colgate Rochester Divinity School until 1983. Wilmore served as the dean of the divinity program at New York Theological Seminary until 1987 before becoming a teacher of church history at the Interdenominational Theological Center in Atlanta. In 1990, he became the editor of The Journal of the ITC, and he remained in that post for five years. From 1995-1998, Wilmore was an adjunct professor at the United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio. Wilmore has written and edited sixteen books including Black Religion and Black Radicalism: An Interpretation of the Religious History of African Americans, which was published in 1998, and Pragmatic Spirituality, which was published in June of 2004. He is also the recipient of innumerable awards and honors. Note of Interest: His wife Lee Wilmore was an elder of TEPC. (PHS Feb. Issue)

March 2- Communion servers
Deacons: Mary Rowland and Vicki Bailey
Trinity Emmanuel Presbyterian Church is a multicultural, multi-generational community providing services and spiritual guidance.

Elders: Rochelle McDaniel; John Dansler; Jocelyn Cox-Hiler; Mamie Lloyd

March Worship Leaders
1- Elder Roger Miller 8- Elder Roger Miller
15- Elder Cheryl Avery 22- Elder Cheryl Avery
29- Elder Jocelyn Cox-Hiler

223rd General Assembly Co-Moderator Rev. Cindy Kohlman spoke at the GVP Pre-meeting in January on the PC (USA) Matthew 25 Initiative. The official kickoff (April 2019) of the Matthew 25 Invitation, a movement that calls Presbyterian congregations and mid councils to actively engage in the world around them so that, as the invitation’s now-active website says, “our faith comes alive and we wake up to new possibilities.”

The invitation, open to any church or mid council, has three goals:

1. Building congregational vitality by challenging congregations and their members to deepen and energize their faith and grow as joyful leaders and disciples, actively engaged with their community as they share the gospel of Jesus Christ in word and deed.

2. Dismantling structural racism by fearlessly applying our faith to advocate and break down the systems, practices and thinking that underlie discrimination, bias, prejudice and oppression of people of color.

3. Eradicating systemic poverty by acting on our beliefs and working to change laws, policies, plans and structures in our society that perpetuate economic exploitation of people who are poor.

We have not accepted the invitation to sign on to participate but let’s read the gospel lesson of Matthew 25 and see where we are in our mission and what other projects we can actively engage in. Lent would be a good time to begin reading and let’s come together and discuss the chapter after Easter.

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We Need Your Help!!!
We are looking for ways to stay in touch, you may email us at: trinityemmanuel@frontiernet.net and visit us online at:

www.trinityemmanuelpresbyterian.org or you may reach the Clerk at 585-235-1463 or email ess331wa@gmail.com
Pastor Jackson at 585-727-2902 or email JuliusDJacksonJr@gmail.com

Please pray for the Sick and Shut-ins, the TEPC family and the family of our Presbytery Leader, Rev. Amy Williams Fowler.

February 26, 2020 6PM Ash Wednesday Service
March 7, 2020 Heritage Dinner
March 8, 2020 - Daylight saving time begins (there will not be a Coffee hour after Worship Service)
March 20, 2020 Fish Fry Dinners Noon-5PM
March 21, 2020 -10:00 AM, Deacons/ Elders Meeting (all interested are welcome to attend)
March 21, 2020 12:00 noon - 1:00 PM - Calendar Meeting Please bring all your event dates to be placed on the calendar for the remainder of the year)
March 17, 2020 5PM Session Meeting (please note time change)
March 20, 2020 - Spaghetti Dinner/Movie (Ushers)
April 5, 2020 Palm Service Rev. Sparkman preaching
April 9, 2020 - Maundy Thursday Service 6PM at Trinity Emmanuel
April 10, 2020 - Good Friday Service 12:00 noon at Trinity Emmanuel
April 12, 2020 - Easter Sunday
April 14, 2020 Fellowship Hall in use by the Urban League at 6PM
TEPC MARCH 2020 UPDATE

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LENTEN REFLECTION

“Lent is the season in which we ought to be surprised by joy. Our self-sacrifices serve no purpose unless, by laying aside this or that desire, we are able to focus on our heart’s deepest longing: unity with Christ. In him-- in his suffering and death, his resurrection and triumph, we find our truest joy.”