

*The Celebration of the Life  
of  
Dr. John M. Ellison, Jr.*



*Wednesday, July 9, 2008  
Eleven O'clock in the Morning*

*PEOPLES CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
4704 Thirteenth Street, Northwest  
Washington, District of Columbia*

*Rubin Tendai, Interim Minister  
Leslie Dowdell-Cannon, Senior Associate Minister  
Clyde T. Parker, Minister of Music*



## OBITUARY

*John M. Ellison, Jr., was born in Northumberland County, Virginia, on March 19, 1921, to the late Dr. John M. Ellison and Mrs. Ophelia Gray Ellison, a "Jean's Supervisor" in the county school system, who predeceased him.*

*He received Christ at an early age and was baptized into the fellowship of the Rising Zion Baptist Church, in Powhatan, Virginia, by his maternal grandfather, the late Reverend Frederick G. Gray.*

*During the time that his father was pastor of Zion Baptist Church and on the faculty at the Howard University School of Divinity, Dr. Ellison attended public school in Washington, D.C. He, along with twin sisters Mabel and Geraldine, later relocated to Richmond, Virginia, with their father and stepmother, Elizabeth Balfour Ellison. Dr. Ellison graduated from Richmond's Armstrong High School and entered Virginia Union University, where his father became the first African-American President and the first alumnus to serve as President of Virginia Union University from 1941-1955.*

*Dr. Ellison graduated from Virginia Union University in 1943 and was admitted to Howard University's School of Dentistry and graduated in 1947. After passing the Virginia Dental Board, he established a dental practice in Williamsburg, Virginia, across the street from William and Mary College, becoming the first African-American dentist in that city.*

*In 1948, Dr. Ellison married Ethel Crawford of Washington, D. C. The ceremony was performed by his father and the Reverend Dr. John L. S. Holloman, of Washington, D.C., a close friend of his family. Dr. & Mrs. Ellison would have celebrated their 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary this July 25<sup>th</sup>.*

*Dr. Ellison served in the U.S. Air Force and was stationed at the Mitchell Air Force Base in Long Island, New York. He was the first African-American dentist assigned to the Dental Clinic there. After his honorable discharge in 1953, Dr. Ellison returned to the Washington, D.C. area, where he established his private dental practice in Arlington, Virginia, becoming its first African-American dentist. He practiced dentistry in Arlington for over 50 years and during that time, also served as the dentist for the Arlington County Public School System. Dr. Ellison enjoyed a multi-racial practice, which included many patients from rural areas who could not always afford dental services, but he never denied them his services. Sometimes his rural patients made payment with their homegrown garden produce and baked goods and occasionally gifted his children with puppies and rabbits. For many*



*years, he was the dentist for the Liberian Ambassador, his family and members of his staff.*

*Dr. Ellison was active with the Northern Virginia Dental Society, the National Dental Association, served as the President of the Old Dominion Dental Society, a Fellow in the Academy of General Dentistry and an Honorary Board Director of Bells for Peace, Inc.*

*Following the footsteps of his father, Dr. Ellison became a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., Beta Chapter, while at Virginia Union University. The Alpha tradition has been continued by his uncles, nephew and son-in-law; and his grandson recently became a fourth generation Alpha.*

*An avid golfer, Dr. Ellison played as long as he could and enjoyed his membership in the Pro-Duffer's Golf Club. He also loved photography, and there was hardly a time that he did not have a camera in his hand, capturing the windows of life.*

*Dr. Ellison, affectionately known as "Mac" short for Malcus, or "Ellison" to his family and friends, and his wife, Ethel, enjoyed a wonderful life, treasured their many friends, and traveled extensively throughout the United States, Canada, Mexico, Europe, Southeast Asia, South America, and the Caribbean Islands.*

*Dr. Ellison leaves to cherish his loving memory, his wife, Ethel, Esq., three children, Deborah Ellison Farris, Esq., Sheryl Ellison-Blue, Esq., and John M. Ellison, III; three grandchildren, James Randolph Farris, III, John M. Ellison, IV, and Rishelle Y. Ellison; a sister, Mabel Ellison Scoggins; three nephews, Hugh M. Scoggins, III, Donald E. Scoggins, and Francis A. Kornegay, Jr.; and two devoted sons-in-law, James Randolph Farris, Jr., M.D. and David G. Blue.*

*Dr. Ellison was a wonderful husband, father, grandfather, uncle and cousin. His family and friends will truly miss him.*





**THE ORDER  
OF THE  
CELEBRATION**

**THE PRELUDE**

Runyan/Miller

*Great Is Thy Faithfulness*

**THE OPENING HYMN**

Stuart K. Hine

*How Great Thou Art*

**THE CALL TO THANKSGIVING**

Rev. Rubin Tendai

Minister: The Lord be with you.

People: *And with you also.*

Minister: Let us pray.

*(The congregation may be seated.)*

**THE INVOCATION AND LORD'S PRAYER**

Organ Response

**THE SCRIPTURE LESSON**

Old Testament

Micah 6:8

Donald E. Scoggins, Jr.

New Testament

Matthew 14:1-3

Donald E. Scoggins, Jr.

**THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

**THE HYMN OF THANKSGIVING**

No. 508 Crosby

*Blessed Assurance*

**THE MEMORIAL TRIBUTES**

James Randolph Farris, III, Donald E. Scoggins for Francis A. Kornegay, Jr.  
E. Dianne N. Watkins Dr. Marilyn Tyler Brown

**THE HYMN OF PREPARATION**

*His Eye Is On the Sparrow*  
Valerie Gregory

**THE EULOGY**

Rev. A. Knighton Stanley

**THE HYMN OF BLESSING**

*The Lord's Prayer*  
Valerie Gregory

**THE BENEDICTION**

**THE RECESSIONAL HYMN**

Walter Hawkins

*Goin' Up Yonder*  
Valerie Gregory

**THE POSTLUDE**

Eliza E. Hewitt

*When We All Get To Heaven*







## *Don't Cry*

*Don't cry upon my passing  
I've lived a long and satisfying time  
My life was full of memories  
I shared with each of you*

*So do not cry upon my passing  
Remembering will keep you from feeling blue  
My stories will live on forever  
Or as long as you allow them to*

*So wipe away those weeping tears  
And remember I love you  
You were always more than relatives  
My best friends were you*

*On this day of mourning  
Think not of pain and sorrow  
For I am watching over you  
Today and all tomorrows*

*This day should be of celebration  
Remembering what used to be  
For I have always cherished you  
As much as you have cherished me*

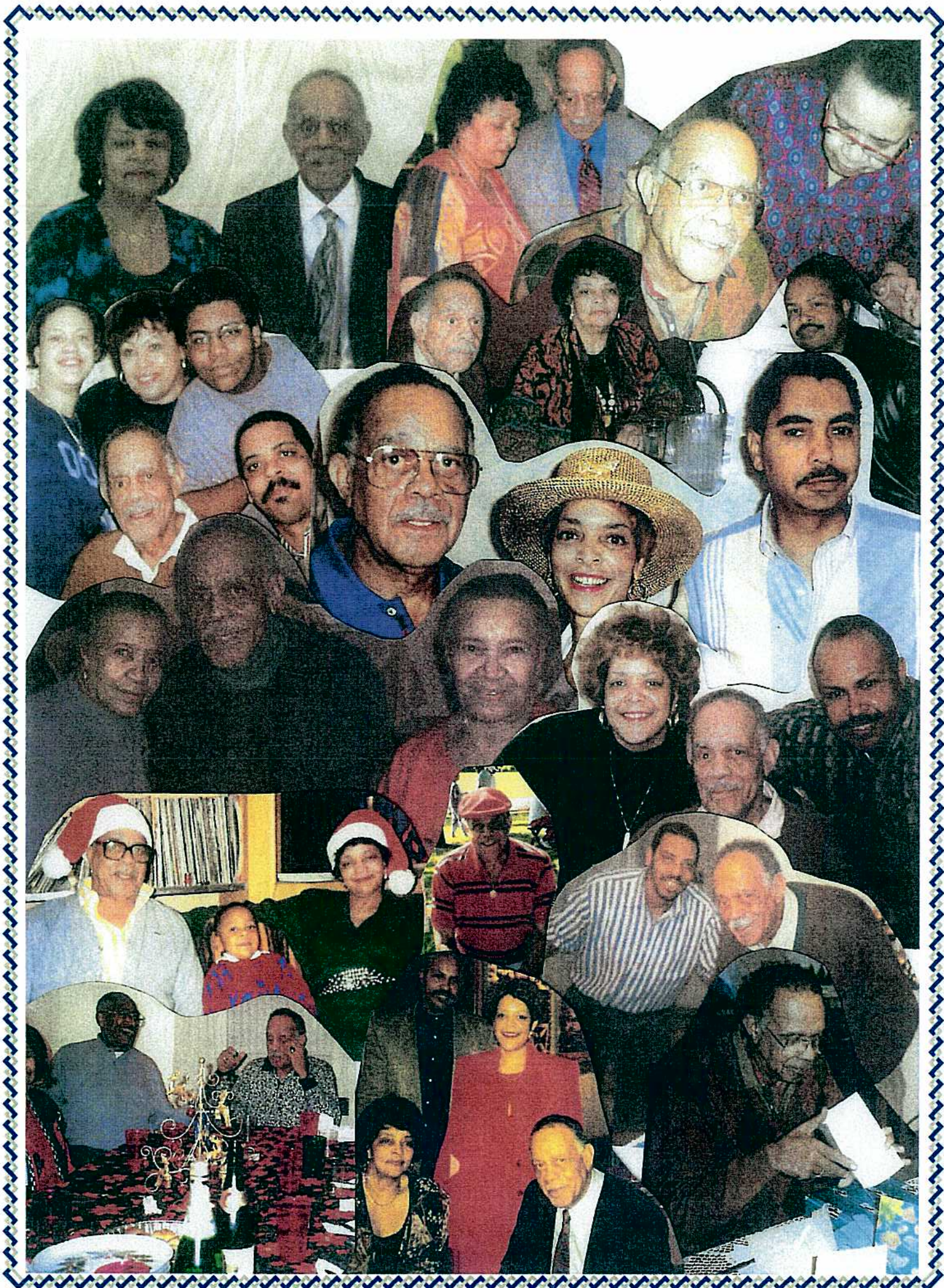
*I will always be there  
Nightly when you pray  
So don't cry upon my passing  
We'll be together again someday*

*Life is for the living  
Memories should never die  
Think back on all the time we've shared  
And remember, please don't cry*















*A Prayer for A Husband and A Father*

*God of our ancestors, in times of old, you made a covenant on Mount Sinai with Your people. You taught them to strengthen the bonds of family through faith, honor, and love. Look kindly upon John M. Ellison, Jr. a husband, and a father, who sought to bind his children to You. Receive him into Your heavenly kingdom where he shall dwell with the saints in blessedness and peace forevermore. Amen.*





## *When Tomorrow Starts Without Me*

*When tomorrow starts without me  
and I am not there to see  
If the sun should rise and find your eyes  
all filled with tears for me.  
I wish so much you wouldn't cry  
the way you did today,  
While thinking of the many things  
we didn't get to say.*

*I know how much you love me,  
as much as I love you  
And each time that you think of me,  
I know you'll miss me too.  
But when tomorrow starts without me,  
please try to understand  
That an angel came and called my name  
and took me by the hand*

*And that I have to leave behind  
all those I dearly love.  
I had so much to live for,  
so much yet to do.  
It seems almost impossible  
that I was leaving you.*

*If I could relive yesterday  
just even for a while,  
I would say goodbye and kiss you  
so I could see your smile.  
But then I fully realized  
that this could never be  
For emptiness and memories  
would take the place of me.*

*So when tomorrow starts without me  
Don't think we're far apart  
For every time you think of me  
I'm right here in your hearts.*



## *ACTIVE PALLBEARERS*

*James Randolph Farris, III  
Gary Flowers  
O. Wendell Flowers, M.D.*

*Donald E. Scoggins  
Donald E. Scoggins, Jr.  
Hugh M. Scoggins, III*

*Vikramjit S. Scoggins*

## *HONORARY PALLBEARERS*

*R. Bernell Clayton  
J. Clayton Flowers*

*Stafford A. Flowers  
King Moses Gray*

*Thaddeus Mumford, D.D.S.*

## *ACKNOWLEDGMENTS*

*The family gratefully appreciates the many kind acts and beautiful expressions of sympathy shown during its hour of bereavement.*

## *IN MEMORIAM CONTRIBUTIONS*

*In lieu of flowers, the Ellison Family requests that donations be made to the*

*Dr. John M. Ellison '17 Memorial Scholarship Fund  
Virginia Union University  
Office of Institutional Advancement  
1500 North Lombardy Street  
Richmond, VA 23220*

## *ARRANGEMENTS BY*

*McGuire Funeral Home  
7400 Georgia Avenue, N. W.  
Washington, D.C. 20012*

## *INTERMENT*

*Rock Creek Cemetery  
Washington, D.C.*

*There will be a repast in the Fellowship Hall of Peoples Church following the Service of Interment.*



## REMEMBERING UNCLE MACK

Reflecting on Uncle Mack, as well as others who always affectionately called him that, brings back memories which stayed with me from the time I settled in Washington to attend Howard University, to receive the Masters in African Studies.

Uncle Mack, in his good humored way, was a good one to play devils advocate and, in my case, he turned out to be more prescient than he may have realized at the time one night in 1966 when at his home a heated argument arose between him, me and my cousin Donald about my choice of Africa as what was then – and probably remains – a non-traditional line of study for the world of work among most blacks.

Was I joining the ‘back-to-Africa’ movement Uncle Mack wanted to know? Of course, at the time, I denied that an academic concentration in African Studies had anything to do with going ‘back to Africa’ or wanting to ‘return to the Motherland.’

Little over 40 decades later, here I am in Johannesburg after residing here with family for 14 years, with no plans to leave this beautiful southern tip of the Motherland. So Uncle Mack, indeed, had the last word.

But, in doing so, he and Aunt Ethel always provided a home base for their nephew and indeed, when they and my mother first met my South African wife to be, it was where else but at Uncle Mack and Aunt Ethel’s home.

Home base at Uncle Mack’s also meant taking periodic advantage of his nice choice of big screen TV’s to watch my favorite boxing matches. Uncle Mack, after all, was an avid



sports fan and of course, and as everyone knows, a fanatic devotee of golf too.

One can picture him forever following balls in the heavens as his spirit communes with an endless course of fairways and holes as past greats and future one's come. Golf was his world away from his dedicated field of Dentistry.

All in all, I always enjoyed Uncle's company. He was down-to-earth and unpretentious in that overly pretentious world of E. Franklin Frazier's Washingtonian 'black bourgeoisie.'

Uncle Mack had that great gift of a sense of humor about life, people and the follies that preoccupies us.

Finally, it was always a treat to see him with his older twin sisters, my mother Geraldine who passed away last year and Aunt Mabel. And, and the progeny of Reverend Doctor John M. Ellison, with his grandsons, Hugh, Donald, Francis, John and John, III.

With those reflections, I say farewell good Uncle, as your wheel of life has turned toward another rebirth in the endless eternity of the universe. I am the richer for having known you and been one of those fortunate to have been one of your nephews. So long Uncle Mack!

Affectionately,  
Francis A. Kornegay, Jr.  
Johannesburg, South Africa  
July 7, 2008





## BELLS FOR PEACE, INC

1512 Wilmington Avenue  
Richmond, VA 23227  
July 6, 2007

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1374 Tuckerman Street SW  
Washington, DC 20011


To the Family of John Malcus Ellison, Jr.:

The Board of Directors of Bells for Peace expresses deep sympathy to Mrs. Ethel Ellison and the Ellison children over the loss of Dr. John Malcus Ellison, Jr., husband and father.

Dr. Ellison was an Honorary Board Director of Bells for Peace, who understood the importance of sustaining the legacy of his father and his stepmother, Elizabeth Balfour Ellison, and the Virginia Union University tradition. Dr. Ellison, known by relatives and friends as "Mac," understood that Bells for Peace represents an opportunity to continue a legacy of excellence that will promote and preserve Historically Black Colleges and Universities, especially his own, Virginia Union University. He accepted with pleasure his appointment as Honorary Board Director, recognizing it as an opportunity to be a part of an endeavor that will bolster opportunities for African Americans for future generations.

As son of the late Dr. John Malcus Ellison, Sr., Mac followed a path of education that led him into the health services field. Following graduation from Virginia Union University, Mac became a dentist in the armed services and later operated private practices in Williamsburg and Arlington, Virginia. Through his work in dentistry, his membership on the Bells for Peace Honorary Board, and other endeavors, Dr. Ellison was able to touch the lives of many in such a positive manner. His pursuit and completion of higher educational goals were grounded in the life he led as a young man in the Ellison home.

Sincerely yours,

  
E. Dianne N. Watkins  
Barbara Balfour Allen  
Dr. Ruth W. Epps, CPA  
Ray Chew  
Sheryl Ellison Blue, Esq  
The Honorable Walter E. Fauntroy  
Barbara R. Grey  
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