

Celebration of Life



Rev. Lawrence Elliott Spann



August 2, 1964 – December 31, 2022

SATURDAY, JANUARY 7, 2023

11:00 AM Omega Psi Phi Memorial Service

12:00 noon Celebration of Life

First African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church

873 Bryden Road

Columbus, Ohio 43205

Rev. D'Andre W. James-Daniels, I, **Officiating**



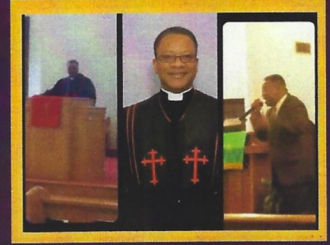
Rev. Lawrence Elliott Spann

Obituary



Rev. Lawrence Elliott Spann was born August 2, 1964 to the late Samuel Spann, Jr. and Eloise Covington Spann in Lancaster, S.C. Samuel and Eloise surrounded him with love, and planted him in the soil of Mt. Zion AME Zion Church where the love of God and obedience to His word ordered his steps. His parents 'trained him in the way he should go' as directed in Proverbs 22:6.

From early childhood, Lawrence had been active in the church. In Lancaster, South Carolina he grew up as a member of Mt. Zion AME Zion Church. As a member of the junior choir, it was discovered that Lawrence had a beautiful singing voice which he shared throughout the years on many occasions and at various events. On trips back to his hometown, Lawrence would make every effort to visit the elders of Mt. Zion.



Educated in the public school system of Lancaster, he went on to pursue higher education, becoming a proud Bulldog of South Carolina State University and in 1986 received his Bachelor of Science degree in Mathematics and Computer Science. In 1990, he received a Master of Science degree in Labor and Human Resource Management from The Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio.

To fulfill a promise that he made to his mother and his Aunt Louise, feeling the need to serve others in a more personal way, and adhering to God's calling, Lawrence went back to school, and received a Master of Divinity from United Theological Seminary in 2021.

"Service is the rent we pay for the privilege of living on this earth." This quote by Shirley Chisholm, exemplified the life of Lawrence Spann. All of the work and accomplishments in his life revolved around serving others. Lawrence held a variety of positions in the Columbus community. In addition to working at RobGlo, Inc. as an office manager and EEO officer, he worked with Franklin County Department of Job and Family Services (FCDJFS) for 25 years. At FCDJFS, he worked as a training officer and supervisor. In 1994, he became an Administrator and Center Director. He had the honor and distinction of being the first African American male to serve in that capacity. During his many years as a resident of Columbus, Lawrence was active in several professional organizations including serving as a board member of The Greater Columbus Community Helping Hands, and the Dream Makers with the Columbus City Schools.

Obituary

Lawrence was a proud Life Member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc. He was initiated into Xi Psi Chapter at South Carolina State University on April 19, 1984. He served as Basileus of the chapter and Undergraduate Representative to the Fraternity's Supreme Council. Lawrence was the Basileus of Mu Iota Chapter in Columbus, Ohio and served as 4th District Chaplain which comprised the states of Ohio and West Virginia.

In 2014, Rev. Spann received his first full-time ministerial assignment as Senior Pastor of St. Paul AME Zion Church in Dayton, Ohio. He truly loved his congregation and they so loved him. He would often say to them, **"I love you and there's nothing you can do about it."** He was a very strong supporter of the youth in the church. He would attend their games, school and community functions and would provide counsel and support to each of them. He was also involved in the betterment of the community through his participation in various civic associations including the West Dayton Caravan of Churches and Boy Scout Troop 75.

Additionally, Rev. Spann formed alliances and fellowshiped with other pastors and churches in the Dayton area. During the pandemic, he and members of St. Paul sponsored an outdoor Juneteenth Celebration in the parking lot of the church which included many presentations from church and community members, as well as the youth. He made it a priority to visit with the sick and older members of the church to encourage, uplift and pray with them. Rev. Spann initiated fun activities such as bowling, skating and Super Bowl parties, in the interest of creating a bond and a means of fellowship with his congregation.

While in the process of pursuing a Doctorate degree in Ministry, he became a contract recruiter for United Theological Seminary, and according to the staff, he was one of their best recruiters.

Lawrence enjoyed many pastimes including traveling, snow skiing, bowling and cooking, just to name a few. Lawrence was a fierce competitor and loved a good game of cards especially Bid-Whist. He was a founding member and president of the Just for Fun Bowling League.

He never forgot his love and service to his family as he was actively involved in the Windom-Bethea Family Reunion and served as the Chair of the Scholarship Committee. Over the years he also attended and enjoyed his time at the Spann Clan Family Reunions.

On December 31, 2022, Rev. Lawrence Elliott Spann departed this life when he received the call from his Heavenly Father to come home. Rev. Spann is survived by his brother, Samuel Spann, III (Patricia) of Laurel, MD, one aunt, Rachel Covington-Banks of Gastonia, NC, one uncle, Lawrence Covington (Mary) of Fairfax Station, VA, one niece, Lindsey M. Spann of Upper Marlboro, MD, one nephew, Tyler S. Spann of Laurel, MD; cousins Annette Gadsden-Smith of Durham, NC; Stephanie Covington of Ft. Washington; MD, Dr. Damian Covington (Carol) of Chesterfield, VA; Whigham R. Covington of New York City, NY; Gail Bethea Jackson (Barres) of Lanham, MD; a cherished, special friend, Judy L. Wright; his loving Pastor Steward, Judy Philpot; Karrie-Ann Bush, who affectionately referred to him as her Pastor Brother; Christopher "Kaap" Evans who served as his armor bearer; his fraternity and line brother, Kenneth Hubbard; and a host of other relatives, church members and friends that loved him dearly.

Order of Service

12:00 noon

Rev. D'Andre James-Daniels, I Officiating

Prelude	
Call To Worship	
Processional.....	Clergy "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name"
Invocation	
Hymn of Praise.....	"Great is Thy Faithfulness"
Lesson of Scripture	
Old Testament: Psalm 23.....	Minister Maggie L. Burnes Rhema Christian Center, Columbus, OH
Gloria Patri	
New Testament: 2 Timothy 4:7-8.....	Rev. Marcus B. Scott First A.M.E Zion Church, Columbus, OH
The Epistle.....	Rev. Dr. Margretta Dobbs St. Paul A.M.E. Zion, Dayton, Ohio
Hymn of Prayer.....	"It Is Well With My Soul"
Prayer of Comfort.....	Rev. Dr. Rockney Carter, Sr. Pastor Zion Baptist Church, Dayton, OH
Resolutions/Condolences.....	Mrs. Verna Poole
Music Ministry.....	St. Paul A.M.E. Zion Church Choir
<i>Tributes</i>	Retired General Kenneth Hubbard – Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Rev. Dr. Curtis Walker– Presiding Elder, Akron, OH Rev. Dr. Audie V. Simon - Presiding Elder, Cleveland, OH
Music Ministry.....	DDW Singers, Dayton, OH
<i>Tributes</i>	Rev. Dr. Michael J. Posey, Presiding Elder Columbus/Cincinnati St. Paul A.M.E. Zion Church, Dayton, OH Stephanie Covington Dr. Damian Covington
	Obituary (<i>Read Silently</i>)
Introduction of Bishop.....	Rev. Dr. Michael J. Posey Presiding Elder Columbus/Cincinnati District
Selection.....	First A.M.E. Zion Church Music Ministry
Words of Comfort.....	Bishop W. Darin Moore Presiding Prelate Mid-Atlantic Episcopal District
Benediction.....	Bishop W. Darin Moore
Recessional.....	Clergy and Family
Postlude	



Great is Thy Faithfulness

“Great is Thy faithfulness,” O God my Father,
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;
Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not
As Thou hast been Thou forever wilt be.

Chorus

“Great is Thy faithfulness!” “Great is Thy faithfulness!”
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided—
“Great is Thy faithfulness,” Lord, unto me!

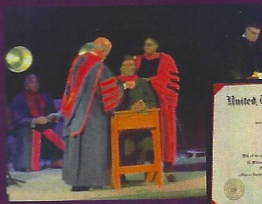
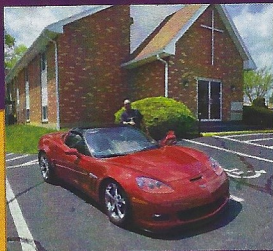
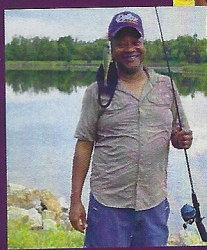
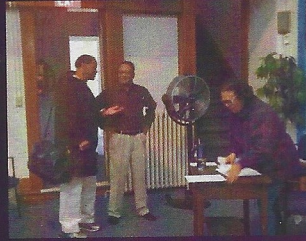
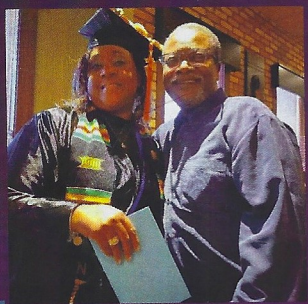
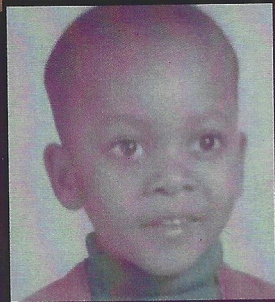
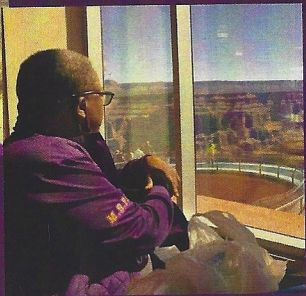
Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon and stars in their courses above,
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!



Remember sadness is always temporary. This, too, shall pass.

~ *Ecclesiastes 3:1-8*



United Theological Seminary
Korean Class Pastor
Office of Ministry

ST. PAUL AME ZION
WORSHIP 10:30 AM
SUN. SCHOOL 9:30 AM
BIBLE STUDY THU. NOON
REV. LAWRENCE E. SPANN





Pallbearers

Members of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity



Flower Bearers

Ushers

Missionaries

Acknowledgement



The family of Rev. Lawrence Elliott Spann wishes to acknowledge with deep appreciation the many acts of kindness, love, comforting words, prayers, and floral tributes given during this time. Thank you to all of the many friends and colleagues, who called and came to visit him during his lengthy hospital stay. He so appreciated each and every one of you. Special thanks to Bishop W. Darin Moore, Presiding Elder Michael Posey, Rev. D' Andre James-Daniels and the First AME Zion Church Family, St. Paul AME Zion Church Family, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. and Thomas Funeral Home.

Interment

Burial will be Saturday, January 14, 2023

Lancaster Memorial Park, Inc.

1389 Memorial Park Rd., Lancaster SC



PROFESSIONAL SERVICES ENTRUSTED TO

Thomas Funeral Home & Crematory

4520 Salem Avenue • Dayton, Ohio 45416

www.thomasfunerals.com