

*Homegoing Service*  
*A Celebration of Life*  
for  
*Reverend Tryon Eichelberger Sr.*

*Sunrise*  
*December 13, 1921*



*Sunset*  
*July 31, 2009*



*Thursday, August 6, 2009*  
*2:00 O'clock*

*Reid Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church*  
*704 Gabriel Street*  
*Columbia, South Carolina*

*~ Officiating ~*  
*Reverend Dr. Norvel Goff Sr., Pastor*

## *The Obituary*

### *Living The Song*

The lyrics of a song sung by Daryl Coley says, "When the music stops...that's when I live my song. When the band goes home...that's when I live my song. When they say "amen" and the choir begins to fade away, I've got to live the life I sing about in my song."

Reverend Tryon Eichelberger, Sr. lived a life that could very well be written in a song. It could have been a hymn or an old spiritual. Nevertheless, just like those songs, the lyrics of his life touched the hearts of many over the years.

The tune began on December 13, 1921 in Pomaria, South Carolina when Walter and Leila Eichelberger gave birth to another child out of eleven. With God adding note by note, Reverend Eichelberger grew and attended the public schools in Pomaria, completing the sixth grade. As a child, he became a member of St. James African Methodist Episcopal Church in Pomaria. He went on to obtain his GED from Allen University and also attended classes at Benedict College.

After living solo for 18 years, Reverend Eichelberger pursued his childhood sweetheart and the two decided to make music together. They were joined in holy matrimony on December 26, 1939. It was at this point that they began filling their home with eight children that would add melody to their lives: Clifford (Margaret), the late Minister Tryon Eichelberger, Jr. (Ollie), Minister Evans Cornell (Janice), Elder Margaret F. Harper (Melvin), Reverend Mary E. Johnson (Howard), Jonathan, Alonzo, and Terrance (Georgetta).

With a full chorus behind him, Reverend Eichelberger was called into the ministry as an African Methodist Episcopal Church Minister in 1963. He had appointments at New Chapel AME Church and Bethany AME Church for 24 years. He was also the pastor of Cedar Creek AME church for more than 20 years. After retiring from the AME Church he founded and was Senior Pastor of Trinity House of Help and Mercy.

With singing running through his bones, Reverend Eichelberger was always involved in some form of music ministry - singing quartet, singing in the gospel choir or sponsoring programs for other singers. He sang with The Brown Brothers Quartet and started The National Juniors and All In The Family Quartets.

Because he loved to be the voice in the microphone, he hosted radio broadcasts at WBTU Radio Station in Union, South Carolina. He could also be heard every Sunday morning on WGVC Radio Station in Columbia, "The Praise Hour of Preparation."

The song in his soul ran deep and he sang it where ever he was. Whether on his job at the Post Engineer Department at Fort Jackson (retired in June 1976), serving as the former president of the Blue Ribbon Cab Company, or fishing at Lake Wateree, Lake Murray, or Lake Santon, or even working in his garden - he was living his song.

On Friday, July 31, 2009 he heard the voices of the heavenly chorus calling him home. He ended his life's song symbolic on one final verse, "If you hear about my homegoing, don't worry bout me."

However, his song will never cease. His voice will continue throughout the generations in the hearts of his 27 grandchildren, 29 great-grandchildren and 4 great-great-grand children - and, multitudes of other relatives and friends.

# Order of Service

The Prelude.....	Soft Music
The Processional.....(A.M.E. Hymn 196) "There's A Sweet, Sweet Spirit".....	Combined Choirs
The Selection.....	Dr. Jana Harrell
The Prayer of Comfort.....	Reverend A. R. Kollock
The Liturgy of the Word	
The Old Testament.....Psalm 90.....	Pastor Derrick Gardner Life Springs Worship Center
The Gospel.....Revelations 21:1-5.....	Reverend Julius Steed Greater Unity A.M.E. Church
The Epistle.....	Reverend Derrick Kendrick Church of God, Ravenna, OH
The Selection.....	Bethany A.M.E. Church Kelton, SC
Tribute.....	Min. Loretta Coleman
The Reflections.....2 Minutes Please.....	State Senator Kay Patterson (Community) Reverend Isaac Huyward (Gospel Singing Circuit) Pastor Reginald Steele (Spiritual Son)
The Selection.....	All In The Family
The Reflections (cont'd).....	Reverend Lee M. Seward, Retired Presiding Elder Reverend Mary Frances Wilson (Spiritual Daughter)
The Acknowledgements.....	Mrs. Janice Eichelberger
The Reading of the Obituary <i>(Read Silently)</i>	
The Selection.....	Harp & The Soul Disciples
Words of Comfort.....	Reverend Dr. James R. Glover, Presiding Elder Lancaster District of the African Methodist Episcopal Church
The Selection.....	The Five Singing Stars Brooklyn, NY
The Recessional.....	Family/Clergy



Interment

Crescent Hill Memorial Gardens  
2603 Two Notch Road  
Columbia, South Carolina

## *Pallbearers*

Sons of Allen

## *Flower Bearers*

The Columbia Conference Ministers' Spouses,  
Widows and Widowers Organization



*When I have passed through all my seasons,  
And fall turns to winter  
And death has come to claim my soul,  
To the Angel, I'll surrender.  
For I would have done the best I could,  
There'll be nothing left to do,  
And God will say with outstretched arms,  
"I welcome you."  
"For you have served the best you could,  
Your life and works were good,  
You come and get a set of wings,  
As all Angels should."*

- Author Unknown

## *Acknowledgment*

We shall forever be grateful for the great quantity of friends, who have expressed sympathy in so many kind ways. The many acts of kindness so freely and consistently shared with us during this time of grief, binds us even closer to you; who continue today, to celebrate with us.

- The Eichelberger Family

The family will receive guest immediately following the interment at Reid Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church, Ruth C. Simons Family Life Center.

## *Arrangements By*

Manigault-Hurley Funeral Home, Inc.  
2229 Two Notch Road, Columbia, SC

Anthony Manigault Hurley, Manager and Director