

# *Go Red*

## LUNCHEON AND FASHION SHOW

Benefiting

The Elnita McClain Women's Center, Inc.

Saturday, February

11:00 a.m.

Houston Marriott South

9100 Gulf Freeway

## *Honorary Chairpersons Michael and Keri Sprung*



Michael and Keri Sprung are passionate about giving back to the community. They share a life that encourages family engagement and inspiring others.

Keri serves as the Director of Communications at the Texas Heart Institute (THI) and program manager for the Center for Women's Heart & Vascular Health. She is a liaison within and outside of THI. She diligently establish-

es and manages collaborative communications projects to support the institute's research and education programs on a regional and national basis. This includes the world renown Texas Medical Center. As program manager of THI's Center for Women's Heart and Vascular Health, Mrs. Sprung coordinates the Houston HeartReach Registry.

Since 2011, Keri has developed relationships, collaborative partnerships and programs for THI with organizations locally and nationally. These organizations include The Elnita McClain Women's Center, The University of Texas Health Science Center Houston, Baylor College of Medicine, WomenHeart National Hospital Alliance, Alliance for Regenerative Medicine, ExxonMobil, American Heart Association, Rice University Baker Institute, Alpha Phi Foundation, The Center for Houston's Future, LHI Houston, Baker Ripley, Breakthrough Houston, Girl Scouts of America, Emerge Scholars and Houston Independent School District.

Michael is currently a board member of Congregation Emanu El where he has served for the past three years. This institution prides itself on the betterment of humanity. One of Michael's main passion centers on his martial arts training at the Karl Geis Ryu which teaches self-confidence among other things.

*Keynote Speaker*  
*Briana Costello, M.D.*



Dr. Costello is a cardiology fellow of The Texas Heart Institute Cardiovascular Disease Fellowship program at Baylor St. Luke's Medical Center. She is interested in interventional cardiology, women's heart disease, and prevention.

Dr. Costello attended Wright State University Boonshoft School of Medicine and completed her internal medicine residency at Rush University Medical Center in Chicago, Illinois. After completing her fellowship in general cardiology in May of 2019, she plans to pursue an additional year of Interventional Cardiology Training and ultimately practice interventional cardiology in Houston Texas at an academically affiliated hospital in the TMC. Dr. Costello is a passionate advocate and active member of the online medical community @bcostelloMD.

*Guest Speaker*  
*Kimberly Connell*



Kimberly Connell is a resident of Houston, Texas. As a child she lived in the Bryan—College Station area. Kimberly was diagnosed with a heart murmur at the age of 12. She was not able to participate in many physical activities. She could not play with her friends, run or do the normal middle school age kid activities. Once or twice a month she made the trip to Texas Children's for 6 hour visits for routine ultra sounds, EKGs, x-rays, blood draws and treadmill tests. At 16 years old she developed a heart condition called Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy without obstruction. This condition prevented her from playing basketball or participation in the ROTC. In 2015, Kimberly became pregnant with a heart functioning at only twenty percent. She delivered a beautiful son Isaiah in August. Unfortunately, he passed away a month later. While dealing with the loss of her child, she was also struggling for her life. She was transferred to the Texas Heart Institute (THI) to a heart transplant in 2016 at Baylor St. Luke's Medical Center. Today she is feeling better than she has felt in many years. She and her hus-

## *Delores Jean (Pointer) Woods*



Jean Woods was born in Waxahachie, Texas to the parentage of Harold and Lillie (Haley) Pointer. She is the first of six children, one sister and four brothers graduating from Turner High School in Waxahachie. She completed one semester at Paul Quinn College in Waco, Texas in the fall of 1966. Her career started as the first African American full time bank employee for the City of Waxahachie in August 1968. She remained there for 45 years of service and retired in August 2013. She is the mother of one daughter, three grandchildren and five great grandchildren.

She is a member of Joshua Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Waxahachie, Texas. During her childhood, she was a member of the YPD Department. She also served as Junior usher, Sunday School secretary and choir member. Later as an adult she served as the Beginners Class Sunday school teacher, church secretary, assistant church secretary, secretary for local Lay Organization, treasurer for the Dallas District ushers, assistant secretary for Area III Women's Missionary Society for North Texas Conference, 1st vice president for North Texas Conference Stewardess, 2nd vice president for Greater Fort Worth Lay Organization and many other capacities. She has also served as a delegate to the General Conference and Lay Biennial. She is currently serving as president of the local Lay Organization, WMS Treasurer, Steward, president of the local Stewardess, Director of Greater Fort Worth District Stewardess, treasurer for the Northwest Texas Conference Stewardess, church treasurer and member of Stewardship & Finance Commission.

She is a Life member of Waxahachie NAACP Chapter #6240 and has served as the treasurer for 12 years. She has Served on the Board of Directors for Waxahachie CARE (local food pantry) for 17 years, the Board of Directors for United Way of West Ellis County for 18 years, the American Heart Association (Ellis County Board), volunteer campaign worker for Waxahachie YMCA, volunteer worker for Relay for Life (Central Ellis County Walk), currently serving on the Education Foundation Advisory Board for Waxahachie Independent School District, election judge for Pct. #113 and 115 for Ellis County elections (Democratic Party). Annual

## *Denise Moore*



We are celebrating in advance what God has done and will continue to do. My name is Denise Moore-Lightfoot. I currently serve as the Northwest Texas Conference 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice WMS President and Local WMS President of Anderson Chapel Hamilton-Manjang Women's Missionary society. My pastor is Reverend Rodrecus M. Johnson Jr.

I have lived in Killeen, Texas for 28 years. I am a mother of 3 beautiful children, Anterika, Tyrone, and Anthony. I have been a business owner in Killeen for 27 years; providing the community with high quality child care services at Moore's Learning Center. Since 2008 I have simultaneously served in the Army National Guard for the state of Texas. After receiving my Bachelor's Degree in Business Management, I decided to continue my efforts towards providing for the community. I am currently in the construction process of building what's soon to be called The Marquee Event Center; a special events center to accommodate parties, weddings, and many other functions. For the mission initiative we will support the community by holding fundraisers to feed the homeless and raise awareness in support of HIV/AIDS and other life threatening diseases and disabilities.

I like to dedicate my spare time to local establishments to help those in need. I often volunteer at the local Mission Soup Kitchen of Killeen, Texas as well as the Hamilton-Manjang Mission House to provide food, clothing, and personal care items to less fortunate individuals. I am an advocate for Women and Heart Disease. I have participated in the annual walks that support Heart Awareness Month. I will continue to put forth my time and effort to help to build my community one day at a time.-Matthew 25:35.



## *Claudia Victoria Gwendolyn Bryant Harrison*



*“The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? Psalms 27:1*

Gwendolyn is a member of St. Paul AME Church, Dallas, Texas. Pastor, Rev. Damon Blakeley.

Involvement: Church School, WMS/YPD, Lay Organization, Choir, Bible Study, Greeter and the Hospitality Ministry.

She has been a member of the WMS for over 25 years and is a WMS Pearl. Gwen also supports and volunteers on all levels of the Women’s Missionary Society:

Chair of the Nominating Committee 10<sup>th</sup> District WMS, Treasurer Local Charity Cole Davis WMS, Bishop Sarah Frances Davis Foundation, St. Paul AME Church, Christ Community Church (Ok.), Church Women United, Paul Quinn College, O’ Taste and See Homeless Ministry, Oak Cliff YMCA (Sunshine and Game Day Committee), Paul L. Dunbar and Charles Rice Elementary Schools, Dallas Chapter of The Black Alliance for Education Options.

She served as Director of Volunteers for the WMS/YPD Quadrennial in 2003 and was able to recruit 600 plus volunteers.

She has received special recognitions as listed below:

Chaired Affiliated Groups and Ecumenical Relations for the 10<sup>th</sup> Episcopal District.

10<sup>th</sup> District WMS Advocacy Initiative for the “No Child Left Behind Act” and served as a Lobbyist for the Act in Washington, DC. While there, she was invited to sit in on a session of the Senate by Senator Kay Bailey-Hutchinson’s staff.

In 2003, Gwendolyn was awarded the WMS Quadrennial Connectional Award for accomplishing the most successful letter- writing campaign in support of the No Child Left Behind Act. She was a Woman of Faith honoree and continues to support the Queen Esther Initiative. In fact, she was crowned Queen Esther in Category One of the 10<sup>th</sup> Episcopal District by raising over \$7000.00 in May 2011.

Gwendolyn the youngest of 13 children, born in Wiergate, Texas (Newton County). She is a graduate of Prairie View A & M University with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Education. She taught in the Dallas Independent School District for four years. In 1973 she began a stellar career with Southwest Airlines. She distinguished herself as an individual of outstanding character and work ethics. During her career with SWA, she was honored as Flight Attendant of the month in 1974, received the President’s Award in 1983, and had her photograph placed the cover of The Professional Pilot Magazine and The Texas Monthly Magazine.

Gwendolyn is proudly married to Hiram Edward Harrison for 50 years and they are the proud parents of two beautiful daughters, Amber Anice Harrison (Christopher) and Chrystalyn Ashley Adkinson (Christian) and seven wonderful grandchildren; Christopher

## *Helen Shaw Robinson*



Sister Helen Shaw Robinson is a lifelong resident of Dallas, Texas. She is a graduate of Paul Quinn College. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Social Work, a Bachelors of Arts in Education, and a Masters in Counseling. She is a retired educator after teaching in the Dallas Public School system for twenty-five years. Her greatest joy in teaching was being able to teach Kindergarten for all twenty-five years.

Helen and her husband Willie Robinson, Sr. have been married for 44 years. They are the proud parents of two adult children, LaTosha Robinson Ruffin who is a Registered Nurse and Preston Robinson, Jr who is an attorney and judge. In addition Sister Robinson and Brother Robinson have three granddaughters and one great-grandson.

As a member of Smith Chapel A.M.E. in Dallas, Texas, where Dr. C. Dennis Williams is the pastor; she is an active member of the mass choir and the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President of the missionary society. She has also served as the Y.P.D. Director at Smith Chapel. During the time that she served as Y.P.D. Director, the YPDers were involved in many outreaches. They offered lawn care for the sick and shut-in members of Smith Chapel. They also provided Thanksgiving and Christmas Baskets to those in need.

Helen is a dedicated adult member of the Girl Scouts of Northeast Texas. She has served as a Troop Leader for 34 years. Her other duties as a member of the Girl Scouts includes serving as the Adult Recognition Specialist and Service Unit Manager. Her love for Girl Scouts began when her daughter joined the Scouts in the 1980's, and she is still there inspiring other girls to be the best they can be.

Sister Robinson is currently in her 8<sup>th</sup> year of serving as the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President of the North Texas Conference Women's Missionary Society under the leadership of President Gerri Earl. She loves Conference, as well as making their duties/responsibilities.

coordinating outreaches for the sure all of the officers are aware of



# *Elnita McClain Women's Center, Inc.*

## *2019 Go Red Luncheon Program*

**Rev. Charles Hudson, Master of Ceremonies**  
Entrance of Keynote Speaker, Guest Speaker,  
Honorary Chairpersons and Honorees

*Dr. Briana Costello*

*Mrs. Kimberly Connell*

*Mr. Michael and Mrs. Keri Sprung*

*Ms. Monica Allen*

*Mrs. Gloria Page Emanuel*

*Mrs. Claudia Victoria Gwendolyn Bryant Harrison*

*Mrs. Phyllis Jackson*

*Mrs. Leisa McMullen*

*Mr. Paul Miller*

*Ms. Denise Moore*

*Ms. Linda Kay Nesmith*

*Mr. Marcus Pollard*

*Mrs. Helen Shaw Robinson*

*Mrs. Delores Jean (Pointer) Woods*

Song of Tribute .....Mrs. LaShawn Hodge

Mrs. LaKeshia Pollard

Welcome.....Ms. Cheryl Jones





Signature Parade of Hats Welcome ..... Callie Lewis' Forty Plus Models

Greetings from the 2019 Chairpersons ..... Mr. Michael and Mrs. Keri Sprung

Fashion Show.....Callie Lewis Forty Plus Models

Presentation of Awards.....Mrs. Gerri Earl

Invocation .....Ms. Penny Liggins

***Lunch is Served***

Introduction of the Keynote Speaker .....Dr. Olinda Johnson

Keynote Speaker ..... Dr. Briana Costello

Guest Speaker.....Kimberly Connell

Presentation of Awards.....Rev. Dr. Brenda Arnold - Scott  
Mrs. Shamra Hodge

The Elnita McClain Women's Center.....Mrs. Wylene Thompson

Remarks ..... Rev. Kevin Hodge,  
2019 Go Red Luncheon Chairperson

**Dr. Stan McKenzie,**  
10th Episcopal District Episcopal Supervisor

**Bishop Vashti Murphy McKenzie**  
10th Episcopal District Presiding Prelate

**Special Thank You to The 10th District Presiding Elder's Council**

**Northwest Texas Conference:** Rev. Johnny R. Mitchell & Rev. Dr. George Johnson, Jr.

**North Texas Conference:** Rev. Dr. Walter McDonald & Rev. Mittie Muse, Sr.

**Southwest Texas Conference:** Rev. Dr. Raymond Bryant & Rev. Pamela Rivera

**Texas Conference:** Rev. Chuma Okoli & Rev. Brenda Beckford Payne

## *Gloria Page Emanuel*



Gloria Page Emanuel commenced an illustrious career as an educator in the Waco Independent School District for thirty-four years. She had the privilege to serve in two unique capacities, as a social studies teacher ( Waco High School and University Middle School ) and as a school counselor at University Middle School. She retired from the Waco Independent School District/Region XII Service Center in 2004. She used her passion for social studies and her background as a certified counselor to make a difference in the lives of the young people she had the opportunity to impact. As a social studies teacher, she served as a block leader, department chairperson and area representative for the Waco TSTA-NEA Classroom Teachers Association. As a counselor, she worked closely with students, teachers, parents, the administration and was the Adopted School liaison for business partnerships that worked with our students.

“Lady Gloria” is the oldest of four siblings, the daughter of the late Mr. Daniel Page and Mrs. Leola Scott-Page of Dallas. She graduated high school from E.A. Kemp High School, Bryan, Texas, and graduated from Texas A& M University (East Texas State University), Commerce, Texas. She earned a Bachelor of Science in the Social Sciences. She later graduated from Prairie View A & M University, Prairie View, Texas with a Master of Education in Guidance/Counseling.

Awards and Recognitions received: The Most Prominent Educators in Texas (1983), University Middle Schools Outstanding Teacher (1989), Who’s Who of American Women (1987), the World Who’s of Women (1988), Who’s Who of Emerging Leaders in America (1987), Who’s Who in the South (1989), received a Distinguished Leadership Award (1989), was recognized in the International Who’s Who of Professional and Business Women (1994); on October 7, 1987, she was a select recipient of the American Biographical Institute, to receive a Commemorative Medal of Honor in honor of outstanding achievements and dedication to personal and professional goals. Also, Lady Gloria was recognized in Who’s Who in American Education (1993, 1995, & 2004), and Waco Public Schools Distinguished Counselors., and was named as a 2019 Lifetime Achievement Award recipient by Marquis Who’s Who. She is a member of Grant AME Worship Center, Austin (Rev. Sylvester Delaney Patton, III, Pastor), former First Lady of the “Austin Capital District, a Life Member in the Connectional Women’s Missionary Society, a member of the Southwest Texas Conference and The Connectional Ministers’ Spouses, Widows, Widowers Organization Plus P. K’s, and Sigma Gamma Rho, Inc.

Lady Gloria is married to the love of her life and partner in ministry, the Retired Presiding Elder of the Austin Capital District, Rev. Dr. Lawrence R. Emanuel, Sr. They are the parents of two awesome young men, Lawrence R. Emanuel, Jr. (Deandra “Dee” Emanuel) and Kevin L. Emanuel. Also, they have six grand-children, Jaylen, Christian, Francesca (“Franny”), Aidan, Kyla and the beloved Lawrence III.

## *Phyllis Jackson*



Phyllis, a native of Marbury, AL. She has lived the last forty years in San Antonio TX working for the Army Medical Department Center and School (AMEDDCS) U. S. Army Health Readiness Center of Excellence (HRCoE).

Phyllis's Federal career began when she joined the U. S. Army where she served as the Administrative Assistant for the Army Security Agency in Frankfurt Germany. She later moved to San Antonio TX and retired from AMEDDC&S HRCoE on September 1, 2017, after forty-two years of

Federal Service.

Phyllis is a member of Hodges Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church where she serves as a Steward, a member of the Teutha Wilson Missionary Society and the Lay Organization. She is also the Director of the Helping Hands Outreach Ministry where food, clothes, and referrals are provided to members of the community. She is also a 10th Episcopal District Women's Missionary Society Pearl.

Phyllis is a Life Member of Blacks in Government (BIG) and has served the San Antonio Chapter as Secretary, Chair of Sunshine Committee, a member of the Oratorical Committee, and Back to School Give-A-Way Committee.

She has received numerous awards including the AMEDDC&S HRCoE Employee of the Quarter, Fort Sam Houston Most Committed EEO/EO Special Emphasis Program Manager, and the Medical Command Blacks In Government Meritorious Service Award. She also received the African Methodist Episcopal Church International Connectional Women Missionary Society Boundless Award, the Connectional Lay Organization Person of the Year Award, and the Bank of America Local Hero Award where \$5,000.00 was donated in her name to the organization of her choice.

She is a member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), a Volunteer Deputy Voters Registrar and serves on the Executive Board of Church Women United (CWU) in Bexar County.

She received a Bachelors of Science Degree from Texas State University (formerly Southwest Texas State University), San Marcos, TX.

Phyllis has been married to her husband, Travis Jackson for 38 years. They have two children LaFrey and Trevor and two grandchildren, Travis and Jackson.

## *Monica Allen*



Monica E. Allen was born in Rosieres-En-Haye, France to Freddie and Edna Lee Allen. She is the third of seven children. In 1977, Monica's father retired from the Air Force and the family made the decision to move to Houston, to be closer to other family members. Monica graduated from Madison High School and afterwards continued her education at the University of Phoenix. She received both an Associates and Bachelors in Business. Management. For 22 years Monica was promoted through the ranks in her career at DHL. She now utilizes her knowledge, managerial and customer service skill set at Office Depot as a Print Service Specialist.

In March of 2010, Monica had the most difficult task a Mother could have. She experienced the death her only child, Nicolas D. Bradley. He was only 24 years old and he was the love of her life. Although this devastated Monica, she learned to turn her pain into a passion for helping others. Monica joined St. Paul AME Church in Houston and soon after joined the Lula B. Williams Women's Missionary Society. She diligently serves as the local WMS Secretary, Food Panty helper and any other task she may be assigned. She has also served as the Texas Conference WMS Historiographer/Statistician. Monica considers herself an encourager. She sends daily texts messages and FaceBook posts to encourage others.

In spite of her daily battle with Multiple Sclerosis, Rheumatoid Arthritis, Fibromyalgia and COPD, Monica is thankful that these chronic illnesses have not deterred her in her efforts to encourage others. She is currently seeking to become a Health Advocate. She believes personal experience is the best teacher.

Monica believes that only what you do for Christ will last. While we as Christians may experience many trials, it is her testimony that God will always bring you through stronger, wiser and better.



## *Linda Kay Nesmith*



Linda Kay Nesmith is a native of Charleston, SC and the only daughter of the late Mr. Alonzo W. and Mrs. Amelia Nesmith. She and her three brothers Alonzo Jr., Larry, and Kevin were all raised as members at Greater Trinity AME Church in Charleston. She is a graduate of Chicora High School in Charleston Heights, SC and Johnson C. Smith University where she acquired the BA degree in Physical Education. At Smith University, she worked diligently in various campus organizations including Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.. She also served as a resident dorm assistant.

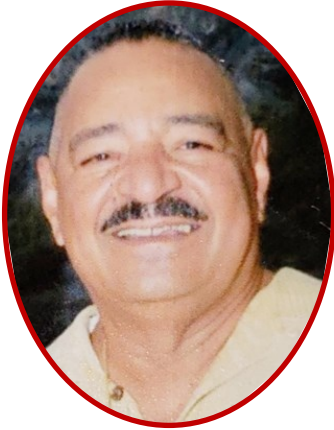
After graduating from college, Linda came to Houston to work for Houston Independent School District at Southmayd Elementary. She worked as a physical education teacher, coordinator for Jump Rope for Life and the cheer teams. During this tenure she was a member of US Tennis Association and trained teachers to teach students tennis. She also was a teacher and student trainer for First Tee Golf Program and took kids to the Shell Golf Open in Houston, Texas. Linda was a Jump Rope and Hoops for Heart Coordinator with the American Heart Association (AHA). She has chaired fundraisers at her school to donate monies to the AHA. She was also a certified CPR Trainer and has trained many teachers. After 30 plus years' of service at various schools, she has retired and now works more extensively for Union Bethel AME and the AME Church.

Linda Nesmith's membership at Union Bethel AME Church began almost immediately once she came to Houston almost 40 years ago. She has worked relentlessly for the church as a Church School Teacher, a member of the Inspirational Choir, the "Layman's Organization", on the Steward Board, and the Women's Missionary Society. In 2013, Sis. Linda was honored and received the Missionary Life Member Status from the African Methodist Episcopal Church recognizing her for 25+ years of dedicated service. In 2017 Linda was honored as the Union Bethel Congregant of the Year.

Linda helps in the community by being a servant leader. She does a lot of personal things for people such as taking them to the doctor, cleaning their house, taking them food etc. She continues to mentor a young lady which she had helped like a mother since she was a little girl. She prepares food baskets for those in need during Thanksgiving and Christmas. Linda loves to cook and bakes wonderful 7 Up Pound cakes which she often gives to others.

Linda continues to make a difference in the lives of others through her sincere and loving character, faithful service and tireless dedication to God, God's people in and

## *Paul Miller*



Paul Miller is a graduate of Grambling State University, where he earned a degrees in teaching and French. He has owned and operated the Turning Point Night Club for over forty years.

Mr. Miller is being honored for his commitment and service to not only women and children but to the entire Third Ward community. He is a member of the elite fraternity Kappa Alpha Psi whose mission as an organization is honorable achievement and community service. Mr. Miller demonstrates his commitment to the community by sponsoring numerous little league baseball and football teams, support of KTSU, hiring the “unemployable,” giving 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> chances to individuals recently released from incarceration and hiring seasoned women to support their fixed monthly income. For 365 days a year rain or shine a free buffet is provided for anyone who is hungry. Most establishments require a purchase to eat at the buffet but Mr. Miller allows anyone to eat regardless of their ability to pay or not. Paul Miller is a member of the Knights of Peter Claver, A Master Mason and has been a proud member of St Peters the Apostle Catholic Church for 40 years.

When asked what his proudest accomplishment is he stated his 5 children. He also has supported four Godchildren. All he asks of them all is that they get a good education and make an effort to accomplish something in life. Mr. Miller and his wife Schelenda are dependable supporters of events at the Elnita McClain Women’s Center. They have made contributions towards the Breakfast with the Brothers Men’s Conference, The Domestic Violence Awareness Panel Discussion and the Annual Community Baby Shower.

## *Marcus Pollard*



Marcus Pollard became a Registered Nurse in 1997 after working as a Certified Nurse Assistant for two years. After becoming a Registered Nurse, he returned back to school and received a Bachelor's degree in Business. Believing that learning is for life, he returned back to school to obtain his MBA and Masters of Nursing. Currently, he is fulfilling his dream to take his education to the highest level, and on December 13<sup>th</sup> of this year, he will receive his Doctorate of Nursing.

Presently, Marcus serves as the Director of Nursing at Ben Taub hospital. Ben Taub Hospital is home to the Ginni and Richard Mithoff Trauma Center, a world renown Level I trauma center. Ben Taub Hospital is a Comprehensive Stroke Center (DNV) and recipient of the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association's Get With The Guidelines©-Stroke Gold Plus-Target: Stroke Honor Roll Elite Plus Award. Ben Taub is also a designated Chest Pain Center and a Mission: Lifeline© Gold Plus Receiving Center for STEMI (heart attack) care. As the Director of Nursing, his focus is on increasing the patient experience and developing the next generation of healthcare workers. He also proudly serves as a member of the Health Ministry at St. Paul AME Church in Houston, Texas—Pastor Roderick D. Dawson.

Marcus enjoys spending time with his wife, LaKeshia, and children, Marcus II and Karrington Elise. He is also a proud and active member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Incorporated where he lives out their motto of "Achievement in every field of human endeavor."

## *Leisa McMullen*



Leisa is the oldest girl of 5 children and the first of her family to go to college. She worked full time as a nursing assistant to pay for practical nursing school in Augusta, Georgia. She began working full time as a LPN in 1980. She obtained her associates degree as a registered nurse from San Jacinto Community College in 1986. When her youngest child finished high school she went back to school and completed her bachelors degree in nursing from the University of Texas in 2003 and then her masters degree in nursing education from Texas Woman's University in 2007. She began working as a labor and delivery nurse and has worked in obstetric nursing in various roles ever since. She is so grateful for all of the women she has had the privilege to care for and all that they have taught her. She has been an executive member of the Houston Area Collaborative Perinatal Program for over 20 years. She has spoken extensively on domestic violence, child abuse, and human trafficking. She has served as a volunteer for Montrose Street Outreach and other ministries whose focus is to get young women off the streets and provide the help needed to enable



*Mrs. Elnita McClain -*

*10/13/1905 7/07/1995*

**Mrs. Elnita McClain** was a compassionate missionary and member of Wesley Chapel AME Church in Houston, Texas. She was a woman of faith who selflessly worked to meet the needs of the least, the last and the lost in the Houston community for over 50 years.

*The Elnita McClain Women's Center, Inc.*

**The Elnita McClain Women's Center, Inc.**

is a faith based, not for profit agency. It is a ministry of the Women's Missionary Society of the 10th Episcopal District of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. The Elnita McClain Women's Center, Inc. originally operated as the Open Door Christian Society, which was founded in 1959 by Mr. Stephen and Mrs. Elnita McClain. The Open Door Christian Society ministered in partnership with the Harris County Juvenile Department and the Texas Youth Commission primarily to the male youth population. The ministry later served as a halfway house and shelter to displaced persons. On July 6, 1991, Mrs. Elnita McClain donated the house to the 10th Episcopal District Women's Missionary Society of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. In 1993, the house was officially dedicated as the Elnita McClain Women's Center. Currently under the Episcopal Leadership of Bishop Vashti Murphy McKenzie and Dr. Stan McKenzie, the center serves to provide community outreach, resource referrals, programs and services.



**WE BELIEVE IN THE POWER  
OF A WOMAN'S HEART**

— THE POWER TO LOVE, THE STRENGTH TO FIGHT —

**AND THE WILL TO OVERCOME.**

**BUT THERE IS A FORCE THAT THREATENS OUR HEARTS  
AND IS KILLING OUR MOTHERS, SISTERS, DAUGHTERS, AND FRIENDS.**

— **THE TIME IS NOW** —

**TO TAKE A STAND AGAINST HEART DISEASE  
AND FIGHT SIDE BY SIDE FOR AS LONG AS IT TAKES.**