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## Couples Celebrate God's Gift of Marriage with Agape Feast

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## Couples Celebrate God's Gift of Marriage with Agape Feast

Michigan—Feb. 15 marked the sixth annual Couples Agape Feast sponsored by the family life committee of Pioneer Memorial Church (PMC). “This is one of PMC’s best kept secrets!” exclaimed Elsie Buck, and then her husband Ed chimed in, “We have attended every year, and this one was by far the best one yet.”

With more than 120 present, the evening celebrated God’s gift of marriage with the theme, “The Power of Affirmation.” Couples were invited to attend if they wanted to strengthen and celebrate their marriages with a spiritual/romantic evening on Friday night, the beginning of Sabbath, in remembrance of the first night that God’s first marriage partners spent together.

As couples entered the Commons area, they were met with a display of a large, open family Bible, twinkling lights and warm candle light, hundreds of roses, delicious aromas and tables decorated with linen tablecloths, china, silver, crystal

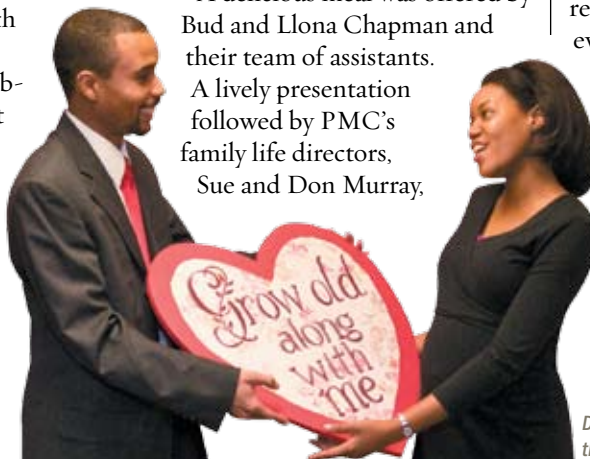


Donald and Lahai McKinnie and Eliasib and Yerusi Fajardo celebrated God's gift of marriage at the sixth annual Couples Agape Feast.

and festive centerpieces. A PowerPoint presentation offered couples encouraging words, dazzling graphics and poignant questions related to love and marriage from a Christian perspective, which was accompanied by soft background music.

A delicious meal was offered by Bud and Llona Chapman and their team of assistants.

A lively presentation followed by PMC’s family life directors, Sue and Don Murray,



evening’s tone and theme.

While most committee members were too busy that evening to sit back and enjoy the event personally, they were dedicated to its success. David Steen said, “My intention when working on making the Agape Feast happen is to make this a night for couples to remember. I want them to have an evening to relax together with each other and with friends. I want it to be a beautiful evening with sights, sounds, smells and tastes that not only glorify God but enrich the mind and uplift the spirit.”

Next year’s Couples Agape Feast is scheduled for Feb. 13, 2009.

Susan Murray, Pioneer Memorial Church family life committee chair, and David Steen, Pioneer Memorial Church family life committee member

Donald and Lahai McKinnie renewed their commitment to one another.

## Marriage Mentoring Training Offered

Michigan—It has been called the “Sleeping Giant” of the Church! Across the country couples are developing mentoring relationships with other couples in their churches. Throughout history mentoring has been the primary means of passing on knowledge and skills, and a new ministry at Pioneer Memorial Church has been established to improve new couples’ chances for lifelong love, and to vitalize our church family.

Intended for engaged and newly-married couples in their first three years of marriage, happy and more

experienced couples are committed to empowering these couples through sharing resources and relational experiences. The first training for those interested in becoming marriage mentors was held on Sun., Feb. 22, with six couples in attendance.

“The training was really helpful. It was cool and encouraging sitting with older couples, and it made us appreciate the joy of marriage longevity and that it is still possible today. The training revealed our strength, fallibility and need to depend on the Master. It was also a moment of reflecting on some core marriage values.

“Being a mentor is a privilege, interesting journey we guess, sharing our joys and sad moments, strength

and weaknesses, hopes and fears with another couple in view of helping them believe that they, too, can live happily by making Christ the center of attraction in their marriage,” shared Ugo-chukwu and Esther Elems.

Another marriage mentoring training session is scheduled later this spring. For more information about being a mentor couple, being mentored or starting this ministry in your church, contact Don or Susan Murray, Pioneer Memorial Church Marriage Mentoring Ministry coordinators, at 269-983-8092 or via e-mail at solutionseekers@sbcglobal.net.

Susan Murray, Marriage Mentoring Ministry coordinator, Pioneer Memorial Church