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Religion

Church to honor local woman, its 1st black pastor

CHAMPAIGN — A reception in Evanston this Sunday will honor a Champaign woman in celebration of her third anniversary as pastor there.

The reception for the Rev. Brenda J. Little will be at 4 p.m. at Bethany Baptist Church of Christ at 1225 Elmwood Ave., Evanston.

The event is part of Champaign-Urbana, Illinois Day at the church, culminating a weeklong anniversary celebration at Bethany Baptist, and all Champaign-Urbana area residents are invited to attend.

LITTLE

Little is the daughter of James and Sylvia Williams of Champaign.

She is the first African-American woman to serve as pastor at Bethany Baptist in its 64-year history and the only black female Baptist pastor in Evanston.

Little graduated from Champaign High School in 1959 and holds a master's of divinity degree from Northern Baptist Theological Seminary. She was inducted into the Smithsonian Institute in 1992 as a pioneer in the ministry among African-American women.

For more information and directions to the church, call (708) 475-9347.

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