

FIRST THINGS FIRST

WITH MSNY. ANASTASIA RICHARDSON



To the greatest Women's Department you can find anywhere – the women of the Emanuel Church of God in Christ. A very special thanks goes out to each of them for honoring yours truly on Sunday, April 15. The Women of Emanuel got together and decided that since the world celebrated First Lady Michelle Obama, they thought that it would be most befitting to honor and celebrate my birthday as the First Lady of Emanuel. To create an atmosphere of unity, the suggestion was made for all of the ladies to wear all black attire with a string of pearls. What a great surprise, even the babies had their



black and pearls on!!!! (see picture below). To add to the surprise, it just so happened that I also wore a black dress and guess what, I had my pearls on too! This was simply a confirmation, because I did not know that the women were going to be dressed in their black and pearls.

During the service Sis. Guadalupe Owens spoke about how important it was to recognize and celebrate the First Lady. She talked about how many people are unaware of what a pastor's wife encounters on a daily basis. She stated that many believe that all First Ladies have to do is sit on the front pew, cross their legs, wear designer suits, wear the finest

jewelry and display a flawless smile. This may be all that you see on Sunday morning, but there is so much more that she must do in front of the congregation and so much more behind the scenes. She talked about how the First Lady has to be her husband's greatest supporter, mother to her church children, an example for the women, secretarial support, prayer warrior, preach and teach the Word and the list goes on and on. After Sis. Owens remarks and reading about the First Lady, she presented me with a fresh water pearl on a silver chain.

If this was not enough, before service ended I was called up and asked a question, "First Lady Richardson, where do you go during the week?" My response was to work, church, workout (walking), and home. The women came from around the church and showered me with SHOES that I can wear during the week for the many places that I go. What a surprise!!!



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D. A. REED SR. DISTRICT SKATING EVENTS

On Saturday, April 21st the AIM Committee of the D. A. Reed Sr. District hosted a Premier Outreach Skating Event (“POSE”) at Tinley Park Roller Rink. There was a mixture of all ages that hit the skating floor along with all levels of skaters from amateurs to pros. There were many give-a-ways such as books, movies, gift cards, 3G and 4G phones and a 32” flat screen TV. The Skating event was a great success and everyone had a great time of fun and fellowship during this event.



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I received shoes for every occasion, along with gift cards and love tokens to buy more shoes!

To top off the celebration, a cake was presented along with everyone singing Happy Birthday. After service everyone was served cake and ice cream. What a birthday celebration!! Again I wish to thank the greatest Women’s department anywhere for affording me a joyous celebration. I love each and every one of you and I am forever grateful for all the support that you give to Pastor Richardson and me. Your kindness will never be forgotten.

Kisses to all of you!!

