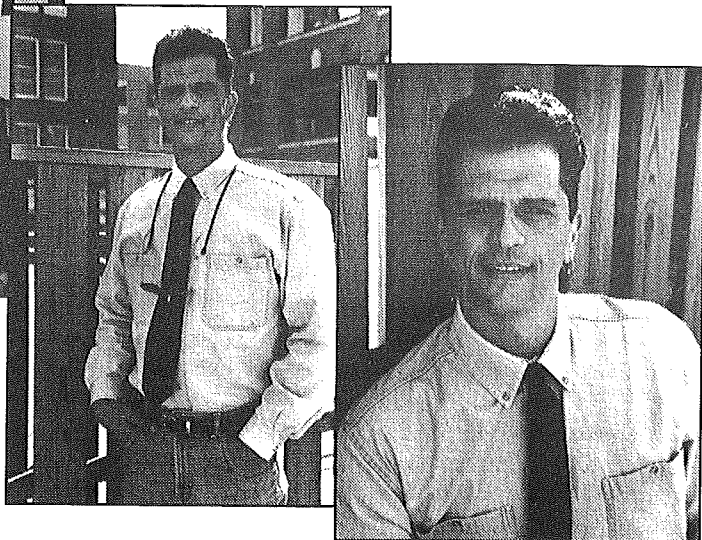


able to live it worrying about money.



selling
y, we
right

We care
an
ot a
harge no
for you
fits.

At Individual Benefits we're more than experts in viatical settlements: every person here has experienced the terminal illness of a loved one or friend. We understand your needs. We want to help.

If you need personalized assistance, please call our Philadelphia office at (215) 985-5819 or our home office at (800) 800-3264.

Individual Benefits

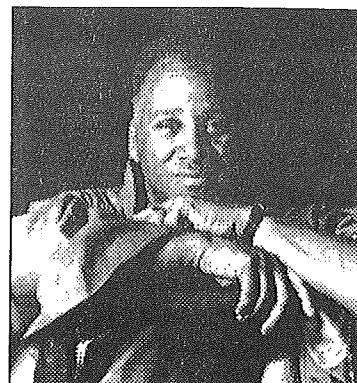
**EPS YOU IN TOUCH
ek After Week**

**METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH
OF PHILADELPHIA**

OBITUARIES

The Rev. Herbert Evans

By Timothy Cwiek
PGN Contributing Writer



The Rev. Herbert E. Evans

Friends are mourning the death of the Rev. Herbert E. Evans, a former senior pastor of the Metropolitan Community Church of Philadelphia.

Evans died June 27 at Pennsylvania Hospital from AIDS-related complications.

He was 44 years old and lived in South Philadelphia. He moved to Philadelphia about three years ago, friends said.

"I met Herb in 1992 when he was studying to become an MCC pastor," said a friend, Bernard Barbour of Houston. "I was immediately impressed with his gentle spirit and his wisdom. Then he went to Philadelphia in 1993. He served as pastor for Philadelphia MCC for almost a year. He was the first African-American male to serve as senior pastor for that congregation. After leaving MCC Philadelphia, he transferred his membership to MCC Washington."

Evans grew up in Cleveland and graduated in 1974 from Wilberforce University in Ohio with a degree in theological studies. He was married for a time and was the father of twins.

"Herb spent about 15 years as a pastor for African Methodist Episcopal churches," Barbour said. "Then, as part of his recovery from drug and alcohol addiction, and accepting his gay identity, he be-

came involved with MCC. In his final months, he spent a lot of time doing AIDS ministry for MCC, and with the National AIDS Interfaith Network."

While in Philadelphia, Evans also worked as a counselor at Gaudenzia House and was membership-services coordinator at We The People, friends said.

"Rev. Evans did wonderful work and touched many lives," said Tyrone Smith of Unity Inc. "With all of his challenges, he always had room to reach out to others. He was a great role model and his death is a great loss for the community. We've lost another leader."

Michael Hinson of The Colours Organization said he had a close friendship with Evans.

"Herb was a gentleman. I never witnessed him being angry, cursing or raising his voice. He was widely respected

▶ EVANS, P. 7