

## A Look into Unity Church of God in Christ

Pastor James E Hicks

New School 6th Grade Visit on October 24,2008

Teachers: Chris Quigley, Zoe Manzo, the New School, and Mikala Woodward, Rainier Valley Historical Society

*Teachers, parents and students: Welcome, welcome, welcome to the Unity Church of God in Christ! Did you guys see your name out there on the reader board? You like that? We want everybody in the city that drives by to know that the New School was going to be here today. All right, I'm Pastor Hicks. This is my wife Helen Hicks. You can see our pictures up on the wall. We just celebrated 28 years of pastoring here at the Unity Church of God in Christ. We are a Pentecostal church, or as some call it, a Holiness or a sanctified church.*

*--Pastor James Hicks*



*The Unity Church of God in Christ is an African-American church. It has churches in over 52 countries all over the world. They have over 6,000,000,000 members. So the churches have to vary from place to place. This particular church has been in many locations & the most current one is on Renton Ave S."*

*--Sydney Miller McGraw*

*This is the story of how The Unity Church of God and Christ came to the Rainer Valley and, or was founded. It all started with a guy Reverend Hicks and his wife -- one day at church something from above he said spoke to him and told him to ground a new church. When he got home that day he told his wife and together they started their journey. They got many offers to start after church programs at churches and after a couple years they bought a small building and the first Unity Church of God in Christ was founded. Several years after that between the years of 1995-1997 he built his final version of his dream church. He pointed at Antonio and he asked what's your name then he said to him maybe you will run this church some day."*

*--Anonymous 6th grader*

*As we walked in, the pews were all lined up evenly. There was a path to walk through between the pews. There was a stage where the Pastor stood at the podium. Instruments were on the stage, they varied from drums to guitars. They had 3 other churches before this one. There was no cross on the wall. I wouldn't have guessed it was a church if I didn't know that it was. Instead of using kneelers to pray, they used pillows.*

*-- Maddy*



*And when they do pray they have olive oil in a little bottle of the olive oil and when they call for prayer they will put a dot of olive oil on your forehead for a prayer. How they baptize is they will put a baby in the baptize pool and the parents can choose if they want their baby to be all the way dunked in or if they just want the pastor to hold the baby and the pastor to just sprinkle water on the baby's face and/or baby.*

*--Tyana*



*They believed in feet washing. Every communion the men and women separated to wash their feet. In every aisle there was a tambourine. They believed in being baptized. They even had a special room for it too. They had many youth groups. Their religion had a lot to do with music. They were a Christian Church. It was very interesting learning about their religion."*

*--Maddy*

*Thanks to Reverend James E. Hicks, Helen Hicks and Mary Bennet of Unity Church of God in Christ for opening their church and sharing with us.*