

Ontaria Wilson of Radiation Oncolology

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Snow may have postponed one of HUP's favorite annual events but it did nothing to dampen the enthusiasm that flowed from Medical Alumni Hall last Friday. Gospelrama 2010 was in full swing, with performances by employees and friends that had the audience standing, singing, and clapping its hands.

Chaplain Madeline Dawson, a long-time HUP employee who recently retired from Patient Facilitated Services, was a warm and welcoming mistress of ceremonies as she introduced the many talented peformers.

The Rev. Ralph Ciampa, director of Pastoral Care, thanked those who were

"sharing their gifts and talents tonight." He paid special tribute to the Rev. Ed Smith, "my friend and mentor," who was instrumental in creating the annual musical celebration in 1995. Smith, who was one of HUP's chaplains, passed away in 1999. "Gospelrama is a bittersweet reminder for me," Ciampa said.

Gospelrama was initially known as "Singing Songs of Zion" and was held in the Interfaith Chapel on 1 Dulles. It quickly outgrew its humble beginnings, however, and was soon moved to Medical Alumni Hall.

Ciampa also singled out the three people who were the major force in pulling together this year's program: Tamika Patton-Watkins of Administration, Johnnie Dawson of OB/G, and Madeline Dawson. "Open your hearts and let them be filled tonight," he told the audience.

The evening ended with a feast — from Chinese dishes, pizza and meatballs to an enormous sheet cake. Many thanks to Atlas Pizzeria, Beijing Restaurant, Giant food stores, Lee's Hoagie House, Morrison, Powelton Pizza and Royale Jewel Creations for their generous donations. Thank you also to those providing instrumental accompaniment for many of the performers: Bryant Pugh, Keith Simpson, and Kenny Walker.

"Gospelrama gives us the opportunity to show the talents we have at HUP and in the community," said Al Black, HUP's chief operating officer. "The spirit is both inspiring and uplifting."