

A Good Neighbor Knows their Neighbors
Introducing:
Rev. & Mrs. Rufus Cochran



There is a song that has a line in it that begins “If I can help somebody with a word or Song ...then my living would not be in vain” that totally fit this couple – Reverend Rufus and Mrs. Jistine Cochran. When asked what his favorite thing in the world was, he answered. “Even though I am now retired, I still love being a pastor and I love preaching. I still preach as often as possible”. Although he confessed to being 80 years old, he also indicated that he loved talking to the ‘elderly’. Then laughingly said that he recognized that he can probably be considered elderly himself, spoke at length about the wise counsel he has received from those older than him.

You might not know it, but Mrs. Cochran is well known among certain groups as a ‘song bird’. She has one of the loveliest voices in the Lowcountry. If you don’t believe it, just ask her proud and supportive husband. His face lights up as he speaks about his ‘baby’.

They shared that at last count, they consider the blessing of nine children, two of whom are deceased. They have twenty grandchildren, and six great grandchildren. Mrs. Cochran’s niche is caring for others. She has nursed her mother and father, her brother in law, stepfather, grandmother, and father in law. She and Reverend Cochran are currently taking care of an adult son and daughter. They consider themselves blessed to have been given good health that enables them to do this.

When asked about their feelings about the Neighborhood Association, they both spoke highly of the progress they have seen in the Association. They have a perfect perspective to make this observation. They mentioned among other things the improved decrease of drug activities due to an increase in police presence. They said that they have noticed more people fixing up their homes. With the responsibilities of caregiver, Mrs. Cochran said she missed regular attendance at association meetings.

When they were asked the question - “If you could go anywhere in the world where would you go?” Mrs. Cochran was sure she would love going to Paris, France; while Reverend Cochran was just as sure that he would love Chicago. After 23 years of marriage, it might be best for them to take two trips – one to Paris and one to Chicago.

The church has played a major role in the life of this beautiful couple. He has been a pastor from 1965 until his recent retirement. He has also served missionary duties, and as a member of local ministerial alliances. He was a driver for Piggly Wiggly from 1970 to 1993. Mrs. Cochran is a member of Macedonia A.M.E. Church and has served the church in many capacities which include choir president, missionary, organizer for children’s church, president of the Edisto Area Ministers wives and Widows Alliance. She has taught reading to young people at the Juvenile Detention Center and has volunteered as a mentor at Schroeder Middle School. It can be said of the Cochran’s that their living is not in vain, because they continue to work the work of the Father.