

# *Retirement Ceremony*

## HONORING



**VEN. PETER N. GACHATHI**  
ST. PAUL'S COMMUNITY CHURCH, LAWRENCE, MA  
SATURDAY, JULY 28, 2018



Njoroge's Family



Our young family in August, 1977



Wilson's family



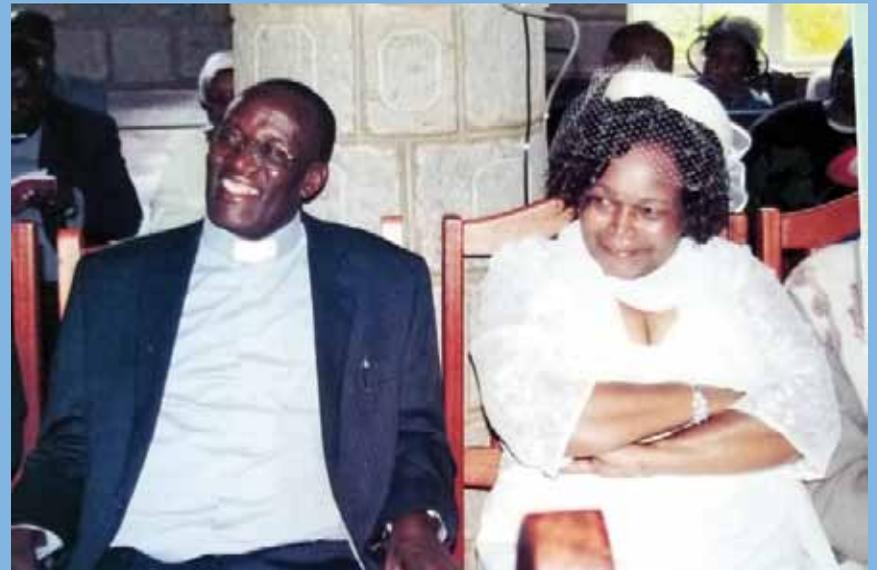
Our first picture together in 1973



Mungai's family



40th Wedding Anniversary



Continuation of our 40th wedding anniversary in Kenya. St. Paul's Mother Church, Kabete

# AUTOBIOGRAPHY, A SHORT HISTORY OF MY FAMILY



I come from a very big family known as Muriithi's clan which according to our forefathers immigrated from Nyeri around 18th Century. My great great grandparents were known as Muriithi son of Nguku and his wife who had two sons, Kiarie Muriithi and his brother Kibui Muriithi. Kiarie, who was my immediate grandfather had 12 wives while his brother Kibui had ten. First, they settled at Ruchu in Muranga county where the elder man died. Later, by the invitation of Kihara who was the age mate with Kiarie settled at Karura. There erupted a quarrel between the sons of Kihara and our grandparents forcing the sons to move to the Kibiku area. It was from there that they bought a land with 600 goats from Athi and settled around Lower Kabete.

My Father was born there between 1898 and 1900. My father, Nahashon Gachathi Kiarie grew up and married my mother, Esther Wanjiku Njuguna around 1924. They were blessed with 10 children, 6 girls and 4 boys and I was the last born in my mother's house. According to my oldest brother, I was born around 1946 - date and month are unknown to me. I decided that August 3rd, 1946 be my birth date. I again changed the birth date in 1965 when I went to get an ID and mislead the clerk that I was born in 1948 but he recorded 1947. Thus, my records indicate that I was born on August 3rd, 1947.

I did not grow up as a Christian since my father married a second wife prior to my birth. This fact made me to seek my Christian life through catechism classes during the time of the Emergency in Kenya. I got baptized in 1960. The following year, 1961 I was confirmed in the same church, which made me feel that I had qualified to go to Heaven. However, I did not commit myself fully to Christian life because when I became an adult through initiation in 1962 I thought it was now time to enjoy life just like other young men who were my age.

## MY EARLY LIFE AND GOING TO SCHOOL

Life was not easy and especially when I began to understand how to cope with day to day living. I became a goat herder for my father till the break of the Emergency when my two brothers were taken to detention camps and my two sisters were married. At the break of the Emergency in 1953, my brother and I moved to Nairobi where my father and my mother used to live. I had been left with my immediate older brother in the village prior to moving to Gichuka (Nairobi). When my immediate older did his Common Entrance Exam and had his initiation, he became a bother to my mum in conduct so we were sent back to the village in 1955. I began my baptism classes within the Roman Catholic Church

for two years. Before I was baptized in the Roman Catholic Church, my mother came back from Nairobi to the Village. She insisted that I must join her church which was Saint Paul's Anglican Church at Kabete. I began the baptism classes again from 1958. The same year I joined standard one. My first lesson was "a,e,i,o,u" - Class hours were from 1:30pm. The class teacher who taught us also taught standard two from 8.00 a.m. to 12 noon. Thus, in the middle of that year our class teacher asked me why I had not started schooling earlier and I told her I did not have any-



Nellie and her prayer partners at Weithaga Bible College

one to pay for my school fees. So, I had to wait until my brother John Njuguna, who had been released from detention, to pay 20.00 Kenya Shillings for my school fees. I was so good in standard one that our teacher decided to promote me to standard two. Even in standard two nobody could defeat me in arithmetic and writing skills. Thus, that year I attended two classes standard one and two concurrently.

At the same time, I completed the first stage of my baptism classes, and in 1959 I joined standard three. I would attend class the whole day. I was also exemplary bright and did well in standard three and by the end of the year was ready to go to standard four in 1960. I sat for the Common Entrance Examination in 1960 and passed. When I was in standard three in 1959 I completed my baptism classes and was baptized in 1960. The following year of 1961, I was confirmed and at that time had joined Kabete Intermediate School which was for boys only. The girls went to the nearby prestigious school known as Mary Leaky Girls School. Our Headmaster, Mr. Eliud Kiarie was the Head teacher till 1963 when he was promoted to the supervisory level known at that time as Assistant Education Officer.

In 1961, our first President the late Mzee Jomo Kenyatta came back home from detention and the state of Emergency had come to an end even though we were still under the colonial rule. For those three years I was in Intermediate, the negotiations for independence was going on between the colonial government and the political parties which were then known as KANU and KADU although there were other smaller parties. In 1962, I faced the knife and therefore became a man according to the Gikuyu tradition. So, by the time we were guaranteed our own independence in 1963, I had completed my Intermediate School Education. Thus, the KAPE (Kenya Advanced Primary education) was abolished with Standard eight and we sat for KPE (Kenya Primary Education) both those who were in standard eight and we who were in standard seven. In 1960, I was in the last lot to sit for the Common Entrance Examination and in 1963 we were among the first to abolish standard eight. Prior to 1963, there were very few accredited high schools in the country and that fact resulted in the mushrooming of many Harambee secondary schools like Kahuho, Uhuru High School and Uthiru Secondary School which



Peter & Nellie's sons in 1990 before he left Kenya for USA

were started to cater for poor families. I passed well in my KPE but due to the constraints of money I was unable to join either Kahuho or Uthiru. Most of my classmates went to Dagoretti High School, Kirangari High School, Kahuho and Uthiru Schools. Thus, I went back to the Village where I became a casual laborer.

In 1964, my brother John Njuguna allowed me with my cousin to stay in his apartment at the Railway Training School in Nairobi where he was working thus giving us a chance to join an Indian Private School. The fee was 40.00 Kenya Shillings per month. I managed to pay for two months then went back to the Village. In January 1965 I went back to School this time in form two and left after the end of first term. That was the end of my dreams in formal Education. The following years saw me with my friends who were initiated with me in 1962, the late Edward Njoroge Chege and the late James Ngugi Kwereba continue working as casual laborers. Edward learnt driving and became a driver, leaving me and James to continue with our day to day survival routines.

## MY ENCOUNTER WITH JESUS CHRIST AND THE NEW CHRISTIAN LIFE AS BORN-AGAIN CHRISTIAN AND MY SERVICES AT SAINT PAUL'S MOTHER CHURCH KABETE.



Peter & Nellie with their first son David

**T**he year 1967 was a turning point in my life. In May of 1967 I was hired at the Veterinary Department of the University of Nairobi in Upper Kabete as an animal attendant in the small animal clinic with a Salary of Kenya Shillings 232.50 and weekend allowance of Kenya Shillings 30.00 every month. That was my first time I received more than Kenya Shillings 200.00 in my life. The Devil was waiting for me and I became a drunkard as well as a chaser of women, but I thank God, I did not go far. In August of 1967 there was a convention at St. Paul's Anglican Church, also known as Mother Church, for the whole Diocese of Mount Kenya for three days which ended the Mission which was there for the whole week. Thus, I went to the Convention on Sunday which was August 27th 1967.

After the Convention the altar call was made and my mother was among those who went forward. It took me two more months before I gave my life to Jesus.

On October 3rd, 1967 I got into a heated argument with my God on why things are not working my way and it became so serious till I admitted before God that I needed him that

time. God revealed to me that he had the power to save and sustain me on one condition that I surrender my life to him. On that day around 11 am I surrendered my life to Jesus. I left my work position and told my coworkers that Jesus is my Savior. In the afternoon it was known by all staff that Peter had accepted Jesus as his savior. Some were happy and others mocked me giving some days, months and years to see me abandon Jesus and join them back.

My life changed from that day completely, and since then I felt that I had no power to control myself but to leave the control of the Holy Spirit rule my life. My mother was overjoyed as well as all members of our church who received my testimony whole heartedly.

I became engaged with preaching to my fellow workers and all my villagers of whom some accepted Jesus as their Savior. I also was given a duty to lead the youth in our church as well as being the Sunday School teacher. The following year I was elected as a church elder and was made an Assistant to the Secretary of our church. I began by reading the Lessons in the morning Service and after a short while there was a church elders seminar where we were taught on how to officiate and preach in the Sunday services. After a short while I became a preacher in our Parish. In 1969 I was elected again, and this time was made the Secretary of our church. I continued to preach at Kabete Parish which had 7 churches and I mostly went to the smaller congregations apart from St Paul's church.

## THE CALL TO THE FULL TIME MINISTRY AND MY THEOLOGICAL TRAINING AT MCGREGOR BIBLE SCHOOL WEITHAGA

**A**t the beginning of 1969, the Lord talked to me and I answered his call to join full time ordained ministry. Around March/April of that year I was invited for the Interview at St. James Cathedral Muranga, the headquarters of the Anglican Diocese of Mt. Kenya which extended from Ngong to Moyale at the boarder of Ethiopia. I wanted so much to join Church Army in Nairobi, but the panel recommended me to join Weithaga Bible School for two years. Thus, from July 1st, 1969 I began my Course which ended on June 30th, 1971.

After further Interview by bishops examining Chaplain I was made a Deacon on August 1st, 1971 and was posted to Muguru Parish in Kangema, Muranga County. I served under two priests; the late Ven Canon Bedan Ileri and the Rev. Elisha Makaho. On August 24th, 1972 I was ordained Priest and was transferred on September 1st, 1972 to Karura Parish under the Rev. Leonard Mbogo Mwaura.



First ordination in 1971 by Rt. Rev. O. Kariuki at Muranga Cathedral

# MY MARRIAGE TO NELLIE AND FAMILY LIFE

**D**uring my training at Weithaga, our Principal was the Rev John Mahia-ini who later he became RT Rev. Mahia-ini Bishop of Mt. Kenya Central. He used to counsel us since there were seven unmarried men and five married men. Among the unmarried were Rev. Fredrick Thanji, Rev. Nephath Gakuya and I were the youngest. Therefore, at the beginning of 1971 we would attend Emmanuel Church Weithaga every evening from 6 pm to almost 7 pm for prayers for our future partners and it was during this moment of prayer one evening God gave a revelation. I used to quote the words of the servant of Abraham in Genesis 24, and I remember that evening while praying and my eyes shut I saw a huge light and in front of me stood Nellie my beautiful wife to be. I shared with the other two and we continued the same prayers every evening and the same thing happened again. I requested the Lord to reveal it once more and it happened for the third time. After that I changed my prayers and asked God to give me the opportunity to meet her and the method to approach her because she was a student at Thogoto Teachers College.



Our wedding day with our best couple Rev. & Mrs. Leonard Mbogo in 1973

When midterm came in February of 1971, I left on Friday morning and that Sunday I went to the PCEA Church of the Torch for the service which was led by the Presbyterian Youth of Thogoto Parish and luckily, she was in that service. Thus, in the afternoon I went to the College and was welcomed by the CU brethren. Later I told her about my prayers and the experience from God and all I needed that day was to let her know my proposal and left her to pray and seek God's guidance. During the April Holiday, I went to her home and found very entertaining parents and other younger siblings. After that it, was time to know my fate as I waited for the answer she had received from God. It was positive and after waiting for two years it was time to get married which was performed by the late Rt. Rev. Ezbon Ngaruiya Assistant bishop of Mt Kenya Diocese, on April 14th, 1973. After a short while God blessed us with our first son David Njoroge while we were serving at the Kigari Parish in Embu County. Our other two sons Wilson Ndiho and Gideon Mungai followed while we were serving at Karura Parish in Kiambu County. We stopped there and thanked the Lord praying to God for help to bring



Our wedding on April 14, 1973 together with our parents



Peter and Nellie with their second son Wilson

up those three sons. As I write this report all of them are married and have their own families both here in US and in Kenya. I was later transferred from Karura Parish to Kigari Parish in Embu County this time as the Parish Vicar. Therefore, my wife joined me to Kigari Parish from September 1st, 1973 till September 30th, 1975. While I

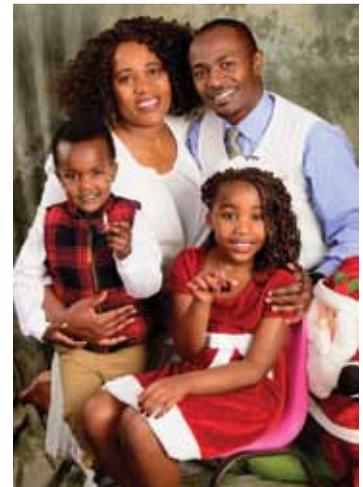
was serving at Kigari Parish the Diocese of Mt Kenya was divided into two Dioceses namely Mt Kenya East and Mt Kenya South. Mt Kenya East was headed by the Late Rt. Rev David Gitari. Bishop Gitari requested for Rev. Warui to transfer from Kiambu Parish to Kigari Parish and assist him with administration of new Diocese as Administrative Secretary. Thus, my wife and his wife were transferred to their respective Schools. I stayed in Kiambu Parish briefly for January 1st, 1976 - I was transferred to Karura Parish where I served for three years. When I was serving at Karura Parish, our other two sons were born in Wilson in 1976 and Gideon in 1977. At the end of 1978 I was transferred again to Weithaga

Parish Muranga County where I served from January 1979 to December 1983.

At Weithaga, there is a Bible College where Sister Martha M. Ngugi was the Principal at that time. Sister Martha with my lovely wife encouraged me to study through a program known as Theological Education by Extension (TEE). Thus, I joined TEE program which was offered at the Diocese of Mt. Kenya East in Kutus and Kabare Bible Institute. During those years, Martha went to St Paul's Limuru for BD Course. Rev. Dr. Canon Samuel Muturi was brought as the new Principal with the Rt. Rev. Dr. Gideon Githiga as Staff. Both Canon Muturi and Bishop Githiga encouraged me to study even shouldering some Parish duties, so I could get enough time to be at Kabare and Kutus for my TEE program from 1980 to 1982.

After Bishop Githiga left for the USA the Rev. Joshua Ngaruiya joined the team - he also assisted me with my TEE studies. Rev. Ngaruiya also left for the UK for further studies and the Rt. Rev Allan Waithaka joined the team. Before the end of 1982 our bishop, the late Rt. Rev. S. Magua died with his wife in a road accident. Therefore, in the process of finding a new bishop it forced the then late Archbishop Mamasies Kuria to divide the Diocese into Mt. Kenya Central and Mt. Kenya South. That caused my transfer in January 1984 back to the South and was posted to a new Parish called Sigona Parish. In January 1985, I was posted again, this time to Kangemi Parish in Nairobi and at the same time was made DMA Secretary which was the toughest time in my entire ministry.

By the grace of God I was admitted at St. Paul's Theological College in September and was relieved the DMA work. Following my completion of studies at St. Paul's Theological College which took me two years I was posted to the Uthiru Parish from September 1st, 1987 by the late RT. Rev. George M. Njuguna and was made a Rural Dean. I served Uthiru Parish for two years and from July 1st, 1989 I was posted to the Kabete Parish which is my home Parish. I was not happy with the new development, but I accepted it not knowing that my new appointment would become a blessing and yet a second turning point to my life.



Wilson, his wife Anne and their two children

# MY ADMMISSION TO BOSTON UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY (STH) AND THE NEW LIFE IN AMERICA.

**W**hile I was at St Paul's Limuru, my friend the Ven. Canon Dr. Samuel Muturi was in the USA. While at Pittsburgh, PA he visited his brothers-in-law in Boston and was impressed by the standard of education in Massachusetts. Thus, when he came back to Kenya he encouraged me to apply to the three colleges namely Boston University (STH), Andover Newton School of Theology, and Gordon Conwell Seminary of which I did. When I joined St. Paul's Theological College Limuru, I passed two important Examinations namely the Cambridge University College Certificate in Religious Studies and the Makerere University Diploma in Theology. So, Ven. Muturi knew that with those qualifications, I could be admitted to any Seminary in USA. After a lot of struggle, I was admitted at Boston University in June 1990. On my arrival at Boston I was met by Mr. Stephen Mochu Karanja and Mr. Karanja Kimani.

My life at Boston University was not easy since the money I had received through fundraising in Kenya was consumed by the Summer School. I also did not find a job except inside the University which was not enough. At the same time my sons back in Kenya were joining High School making my wife the bread winner for the whole family. The toughest time was when I dropped my grades and I was placed under probation which meant if no improvement I could have been expelled from College. That was not very serious like when I received a letter from the Registrar of the University informing me of the date I was to be withdrawn from College since I was unable to raise \$2,700.00 in tuition which I owed to the College.



Ven. Gachathi graduation from Boston University STH, 05/16/92

After prayers, God provided me with a security job and was paid \$5.50 an hour for 40 hours. The pay enabled me to resolve most of my financial problems and by the end of the Semester I cleared all the tuition I owed to the College. I also improved my grades and so was promised to complete my MTS program in the following year. In the final semester I promised to pay every month \$800. 00 and at the same time I was able to invite my wife for my graduation and paid for her airline ticket. I graduated in May 1992 and my wife stayed with me for 6 weeks before she went back to Kenya to our kids and her teaching job since she was given permission to be out of Kenya for a short while. While she was with me we moved from Cambridge City where I was living at EDS to Roxbury at the Sisters of St. Margaret Convent. In September 1992, I was admitted at the Boston College for M Ed. which was to take two years but it took me 5 years. Thus, my wife joined me again in April 1993 and remained with me till I completed my program at the Boston College.

# THE START OF A KENYAN CONGREGATION CHURCH IN MALDEN IN 1995 AND ESTABLISHMENT OF KENYAN CHURCHES IN NEW ENGLAND

**W**hile residing in Revere, Massachusetts I served as an Associate Pastor at the Christ Episcopal Church in Somerville. My wife and I were not comfortable with that setting due to the low spiritual standards and the need to serve the Kenyan community that was growing in numbers. Thus, my wife and I began to pray about that matter. The wife (Mrs. Keziah Ngugi) of Mr. John Ngugi Rubia who had immigrated to US with her family challenged me to start our own Kenyan congregation. With that new development, we met and discussed. I approached Mr. Karanja Kimani, a Malden resident who offered to assist us in renting space for worship from the City of Malden's Council of Aging. The space became available at 176 Pearl Street. We approached Bishop Herbert Groce in New Jersey through Mr. Ben Nene Waweru for guidance on new Church opening process in the United States. The Bishop promised to come and bless us and consecrate the New Church.

The dawn of a new beginning was just about to evolve. It was on June 23rd, 1995 when the Bishop Herbert Groce came and met us at 176 Pearl Street in Malden. The maiden congregation was composed of 8 adults and 1 child. The Bishop administered to us the very first Holy Communion and mandated us to start the Mission church immediately. We appointed Mr. Karanja Kimani as our first secretary and he recorded all that had taken place on that day.

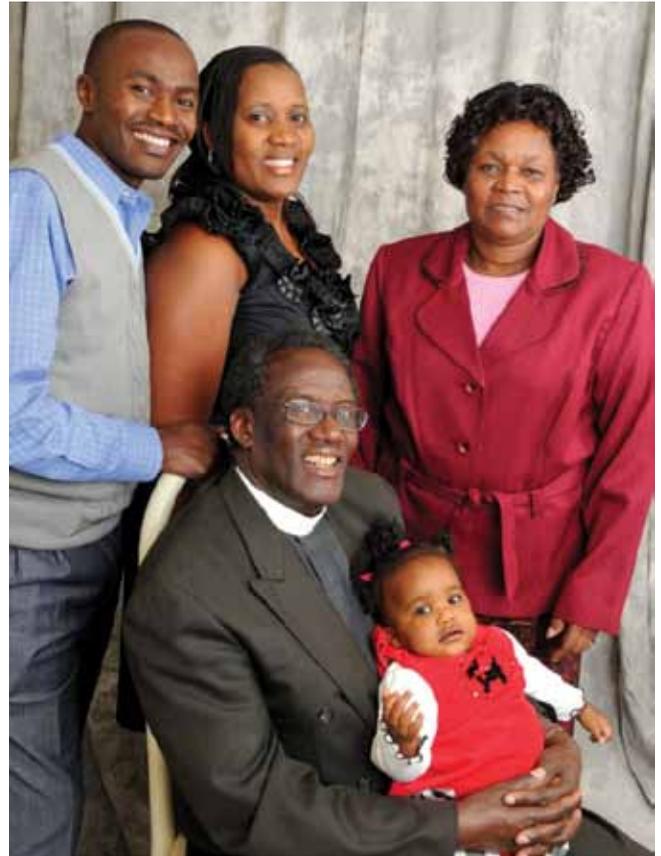
On Sunday June 28th, 1995 we went for our first service, but could not get access to the hall, so we resolved to go to Mr. John N. Rubia's house located in Chelsea where we held our very first prayers. The following Sunday we moved back to the hall. I was provided with the key to the hall. We signed a lease agreement that stipulated to pay the City of Malden a monthly rental fee of \$75.00 beginning July of 1995. This was the only Church that catered for all the Kenyan community in the Greater Boston, Lowell, Worcester, Brockton, MA; Providence, RI and even as far as Connecticut. The church grew rapidly that even after one year we started another Congregation in Lowell under the Rev. Dr. James Githitu. The new Church was blessed by the Bishop Rt. Rev. John A. Herzog of the American Anglican Church headquartered in the state of New York.

The two churches continued to grow numerically. Younger Kenyans who could not understand Kikuyu founded a youthful congregation Lowell, MA and grew rapidly. The new church, Hossana Gospel Center was under the leadership of Pastor Stanley Mungai and his brother Rev. David Kahura. Rev. Kahura opened a sister Church in Worcester to serve the growing Kenyan community.

We celebrated our first year anniversary at the beginning of June 1996 which was officiated by Bishop John Herzog. He dedicated St. Stephen's Anglican Church, Lowell on Saturday and licensed Rev. James Githitu as Vicar and Rev. Joseph Njuguna as his Assistant. On Sunday he Licensed Rev. Peter Gachathi as the Vicar of St. Paul's Malden with Rev. Samuel Muturi as his Assistant. After a short while Rev. Samuel Muturi transferred to Saint Stephen's, Lowell and Rev. Joseph Njuguna was transferred to St Paul's Malden. We continued to serve

the two congregations on a voluntary basis until the elders of these congregations decided to give us a small allowance to enable us to buy robes and pay for their upkeep. While we were at 176 Pearl Street, Malden hall in Malden my Assistant Rev. Joseph N. Ngotho started a Kiswahili Church located at the St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Lynn. He is still serving the Kenyan community at the same location.

The year 2001 brought a complete reorganization to our churches when a former Archbishop of the CPK, the late Most Rev. David Gitari visited the Kenyan clergy in New England. He discovered that every other CPK priest except Rev. Githitu and myself who were under the American Anglican Church were serving under the Episcopal Church. Bishop Gitari informed us that we had deserted the CPK since the American Anglican Church was not a member of Anglican Communion. The former Archbishop pardoned us (Rev. Githitu and myself) and introduced us to the Episcopal Bishop of Boston who later licensed us. St. Paul's was offered a hall at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Malden while St. Stephen's was bestowed with a hall at St. Ann's Episcopal, Lowell.



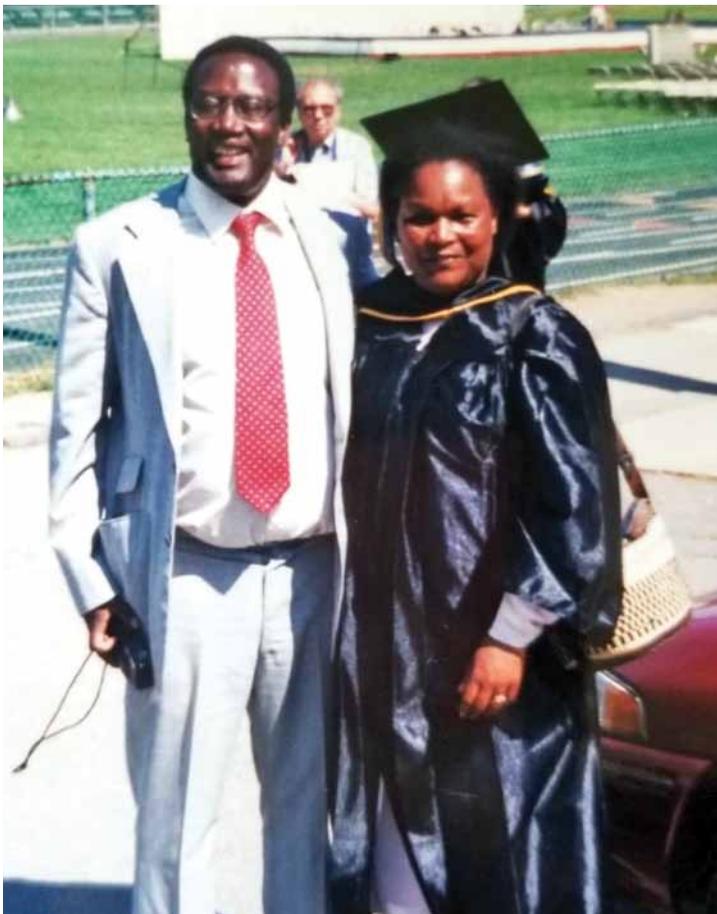
Ven. Gachathi, his wife Nellie with Wilson's family

A controversy arose in the year 2001 and St. Paul's split apart and I was forced to leave most members and over \$100,000 which had been raised through many fundraisings for the purchase of a church building. Thus, I told the few members who followed me to the St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Malden hall to keep a low profile. We continued to pray without ceasing and at the same time donating generously. Later on, the Rev. Paul K. Mwaniki joined us as my Assistant at the St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Malden. and after some time he moved to Attleboro. It was very difficult for the young family to commute from Attleboro, so we requested them to look for a place and finally we blessed them and they started St. James African Community Church in Attleboro, MA. They now own their Church located at 126 Bank Street, Attleboro, MA.

We continued to search for a new place and by the end of 2006 one of our Church members, Mr. Samuel Kinuthia Njoroge informed me that there was a church in Lawrence which was on sale. Mr. Njoroge had even paid down \$1,000 deposit from his own pocket to secure the Church - After 6 years of a well protracted fundraising initiative by dedicated members, and in consultation with the congregation we were able to buy the church that belonged to a Polish Catholic Community located at 112 Andover Street in Lawrence, MA in May of 2007.

# SAINT PAUL'S KENYAN COMMUNITY CHURCH AT 112 ANDOVER STREET IN LAWRENCE FROM MAY 6TH 2007 TO NOW.

In January 2007, we began the negotiations for the building where St. Paul's is currently located in Lawrence with the help of Mrs. Lucy W. Mbugua, the wife of Uncle Ben. She who assisted us in the bargaining process and the ultimate closing of the mortgage for the church. The building costed us \$486,767.00 of which the Metropolitan savings Bank of Chelsea loaned us \$299,000.



Ven. Gachathi with his wife Nellie during her graduation in Quincy, MA

The ladies of St Paul's graciously loaned the Church \$ 6,000.00 they had saved in preparation for the church purchasing project. The bank loan was to be paid at the interest of 9.34 per cent for 25 years. After 2 years paying at the states interest rate, our new Bishop Rt. Rev. Bill Murdoch of the Anglican Diocese of New England introduced us to his friend Mr. Peter, the Manager of The Savings Bank in Methuen.

The new Bank in collaboration with our new treasurer Mr. Lawrence Kamau loaned the Church \$240,000.00 following the paying \$235,000.00 to the Metropolitan Bank with a rate of 6.25 per cent for 15 years. Through the efforts of members of St Paul's and contributions from friends and other churches through many fundraisings, we managed to pay off the loan in our 8th year Anniversary that was commemorated in 2015.

While still at St. Paul's Lawrence, we have witnessed the beginning of two new congregations, namely Faith Anglican church in Lowell under Rev. Canon Justus Munyasya and Church of All Nations in North Reading under Rev. Johnson Irungu.

All those who left St Paul's to start their own congregations contributed a lot in all the fundraisings we had conducted over the years. Ven. Peter also assisted Rev. Jamleck Kariuki aka "Kiki" to start Emmanuel Christian Church in Rhode Island. There is even a sister church, St. Veronica Anglican Church that was started in Newark, Delaware under Rev. Paul Thuo in 2017.

# MY INVOLVEMENT IN THE KENYAN COMMUNITY IN GENERAL

I have served the church of Jesus Christ since the day I was saved from my sins in 1967. But, my full-time ministry records as far back as August 1st, 1971 when I was ordained and served in different places in Kenya up to June 10th, 1990, prior to coming to the US and continued to serve in US from 1990 to present time. Apart from church work, I became involved with the affairs of our Kenyan Community. Few years ago I was elected as President/Chairman of Kenya American Pastors Fellowship (KAPF) for 3 years. My big responsibility was to bring all Pastors of different churches and persuasions together and we had wonderful times with members of my board.

I managed to work with two secretaries, Rev. Samuel Kimohu and Rev. Dr. Joseph Waiyaki who were of great help to me for those three years. In one event there were so many deaths especially among young Kenyans and I agreed with my board members to hold prayer meetings to reverse that calamity. We held those prayers at PCEA Neema church at 450 Chelmsford Rd in Lowell and we experienced a reduction to the catastrophe. Praise be to God for answering our cries and supplications.

I thank God in my retirement that it is not the way it used to be at the beginning of my service to the Kenyan community here in New England. In our church, we have men and women who are witnesses of Salvation. In the Kenyan Community, we have also many who have given their lives to Christ.

The other thing I am proud of is that we have witnessed many young people who have advanced in their education and are working within their careers. I have also witnessed many weddings and so many children born here who are able to interact with their parents and grandparents, without the barrier in language.

I would like to encourage those who bring the little children up to do three things:

- (i) Pray for them.
- (ii) Teach them spiritual way of life.
- (iii) Teach them the principles of life that make them somebody within the society.

The few regrets I have are for my friends who have not accepted Jesus as their Savior. I encourage them to seek Jesus when he is available and want them to know that there is no regrets in accepting Jesus as their own Savior and those who have accepted can testify for me that there are no regrets in walking with God and being washed in the blood of Jesus. Amen.



Ven. Gachathi and some members of St. Paul's Community Church having tea in 2002

# THE CALENDAR AND BISHOPS I HAVE SERVED UNDER IN ALL THOSE 47 YEARS OF SERVICE.

1. September 1st, 1971 to August 31st, 1972. MUGURU PARISH  
**The late Rt. Rev. O. Kariuki.**
2. September 1st, 1972 to August 31st, 1973. KARURA PARISH  
**The late Rt. Rev. O. Kariuki.**
3. September 1st, 1973 to September 30th, 1975. KIGARI PARISH  
**The late Rt. Rev. O. Kariuki and The late Rt. Rev. D. Gitari.**
4. October 1st 1975 to December 31 1975. KIAMBU PARISH  
**The late Rt. Rev. O. Kariuki.**
5. January 1st, 1976 to December 31 1978. KARURA PARISH  
**The late Rt. Rev. O. Kariuki and The late Rt. Rev. S. Magua.**
6. January 1st, 1979 to December 31st, 1983. WEITHAGA PARISH  
**The late Rt. Rev. S. Magua.**
7. January 1st, 1984 to December 31st, 1984. SIGONA PARISH  
**The late Rt. Rev. G. M. Njuguna.**
8. January 1st, 1985 to December 31st, 1985. KANGEMI PARISH & DMA Secretary  
**The late Rt. Rev. G. M. Njuguna.**
9. September 1985 to July 1987 St. Paul's United Theological College Limuru for Diploma in Pastoral Studies.
10. September 1st 1987 to June 30th, 1989. UTHIRU PARISH & RURAL DEAN  
**The late Rt. Rev. G.M. Njuguna**
11. July 1st, 1989 to May 31st, 1990. KABETE PARISH & RURAL DEAN  
**The late Rt. Rev. G. M. Njuguna**
12. June 10th, 1990 to May 1992. BOSTON UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY FOR (MTS) Program.
13. September 1992 to May 1998 BOSTON COLLEGE for (M.ED).
14. June 23rd, 1995 Saint Paul's Anglican Church, Malden under  
**Bishop Rt. Rev. Herbert Groce and Rt. Rev. John Herzog** till July 2001.
15. July 15th, 2001 to April 30th, 2005 St. Paul's Episcopal Malden under Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts.
16. May 6th, 2006 to Now St. Paul's Kenyan Community Anglican church under the ACK and ADNE with **Bishop Bill Murdoch.**

*Today my wife and I have called all of you to come and honor our Lord Jesus Christ whom we prayed to glorify himself here in Boston and has done it.*

**TO GOD BE THE GLORY WHO HAS ENABLED US TO GO THIS FAR  
AND THE ONE WHO BEGAN GOOD WORK IN YOU WILL  
COMPLETE IT FOR HIS OWN GLORY.  
ALLELUYA! ALLELUYA. AMEN AND AMEN.**

# PASTOR RETIREMENT APPRECIATION

## To Our Pastor



There are pastors and then there are servants of God – You are a servant of God who bears no blemish. You are the founder of Kenyan Churches in America and for that reason you will always be remembered by generations to come. You have served the Lord and our Church with gladness – tirelessly, faithfully, and with great compassion for your flock. You have planted seeds of hope & love in our lives and truly made a difference. You have shown hospitality to all and given encouragement to many.

Now, as the story which is your life opens to its next chapter, May the God of Grace richly bless and watch over you, May the God of Peace grant you peace always and May the God of Abundant Joy shower you daily. You have been my family's inspiration over the years and you will always occupy a soft patch in our hearts. You have joined us in marriage, baptized our children, confirmed our children and even buried our loved ones. Some people silently pass through this small planet unnoticed. Even the most sensitive radars do not notice their presence. Others make a bang and everyone notices them, admires them, envies them or at times hates them. The most noticeable ones are usually leaders, not just in politics but in their chosen area of endeavor. A few are noticed after they have made their pilgrimage across this lonely planet. You made a mark while alive, and long after your departure you will not be forgotten - Your legacy is set on stone and you are a jewel shining under the sun for now and forever. ***“I know what I am planning for you,’ says the Lord. ‘I have plans to give you hope and a good future.’” ~ Jeremiah 29:11***

Happy Pastoral Retirement Servant of God.  
Mr/Mrs. Karanja Kimani & family

## CERTIFICATE AWARDS





Ven. Gachathi with Mother's Union at St. Paul's Community Church



Ven. Peter Gachathi and his wife Nellie



Ven. Peter Gachathi with friends



Ven. Peter & Nellie with Dr. Rev. & Mrs. Muturi



Ven. Gachathi back in Kenya after his graduation; with his mum, brothers and sister



Our 40th wedding anniversary; officiated by Bishop Bill Murdock



**St. Paul's Community Church, Lawrence, MA  
April 15, 2018**