

Honorary Pallbearers

Deacons

Pallbearers

Nephews and Friends

Floral Attendants

Ushers and Youth Ministry

Acknowledgements

We are never quite prepared to face life's darkest hour alone. At such a time as this, the thoughtful expressions shown by family, friends, the community and Lowcountry in so many ways make the dawn come quicker, the burden seem lighter, and the cross seem more like a crown. Every prayer, visit, card, floral, donation of food, calls and other acts of kindness shown are deeply appreciated. We are grateful to God for each of you and we ask that you continue to keep us in your prayers and our father, grandfather, brother, cousin and Uncle Ben in your memory.

The Williams Family

Sacred Place of Rest

The Committal Invaultment & Final Prayers
Will follow in Talbird Cemetery
Hilton Head, SC

Repast

Hilton Head Presbyterian Church

Arrangements made especially for the family of Rev. Benjamin Williams and professionally directed by:

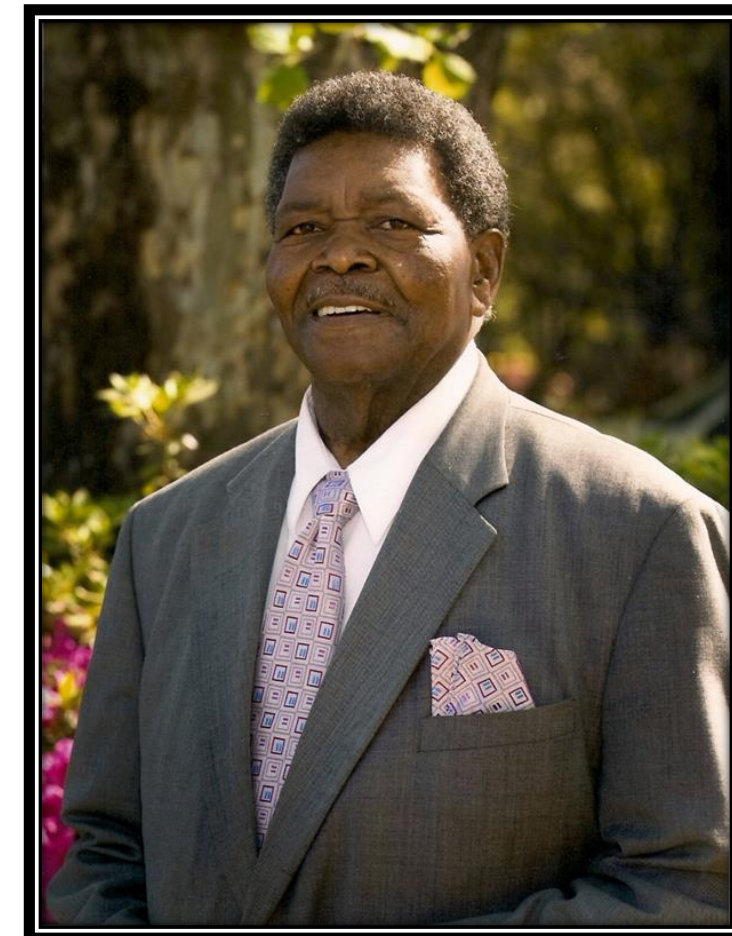


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A Service of Love

“Celebrating a Man of Good Works”

Pastor Benjamin Williams



Sunrise
July 20, 1938

Sunset
November 14, 2016

Saturday, November 19, 2016
2:00 P.M.

Hilton Head Presbyterian Church
235 William Hilton Parkway
Hilton Head Island, SC

Pastor Kenneth C. Doe, Eulogist

The Reverend Benjamin Williams

Hilton Head Island's Beloved Minister

Sunrise: July 20, 1938 • Warrenton, North Carolina ~ Sunset: November 14, 2016 • Hilton Head Island, South Carolina

**MESSENGER, TRAILBLAZER, TEACHER, PREACHER, SHEPHERD, MENTOR, COUNSELOR, BISHOP, BRIDGE BUILDER,
SPIRITUAL ADVISOR, VISIONARY, FRIEND, FATHER, HUSBAND, GRANDFATHER**

Reverend Benjamin Williams was blessed with all these titles and more.

The Rev. Benjamin Williams was born July 20, 1938, the seventh of nine children, to the late Samuel Eaton Williams and Dorothy Beatrice Perry Williams of Warrenton, North Carolina. Reared in a God fearing home, Rev. Williams dedicated his life to serving Jesus Christ and preaching the Gospel to bring others to salvation.

Rev. Williams began his Christian service at an early age. When he was eight years old, he felt the call to preach. He joined the Jerusalem Baptist Church and served in the choir, Sunday School, and Baptist Training Union (B.T.U.). He graduated in 1957 from John R. Hawkins High School in Warrenton. After high school, he moved to Brooklyn, New York, where he joined the Evening Star Baptist Church, and became a member of the Corinthians Lodge #92 F. & A. M. (PHA) Masonic Lodge. He received formal religious training at Manhattan Bible Institute and Brooklyn College. Rev. Williams was licensed to preach on June 12, 1968.

While in New York, he met Hilton Head Island native Elizabeth Patterson. They were joined in holy matrimony on June 17, 1961. Two children were born to this union. "Liz," as she was fondly called, preceded Rev. Williams in death in September 1984. In 1973, after living in New York for several years, Rev. Williams moved with his family to Hilton Head where he quickly became involved with Mt. Calvary Missionary Baptist Church and the community. In August 1974, he became the assistant pastor at Mt. Calvary. On February 1975, he was formally installed as the pastor of Mt. Calvary, a position he served in faithfully for nearly 42 years until his transition. Although he pastored at Mt. Calvary, Rev. Williams maintained a membership at the historic First African Baptist Church on Hilton Head Island.

From the beginning of his ministry, Rev. Williams could capture the congregation's attention with his booming voice and impassioned delivery of in-depth sermons and profound prayers. A gifted vocalist, Rev. Williams' rich baritone voice would give people chills as he bellowed his favorite songs - "He Touched Me," "I Feel Like Going On," "I Don't Feel No Ways Tired" and "Count on Me" to name a few. His style of preaching would bring people to their feet as he shouted, "Have you tried Him?, Do you know Him?, Ain't He Alright?, Give God the Praise." Most every sermon ended with the mantra, "Spirit of the Living God, fall fresh on me. Make me, mold me, fill me and use me. Spirit of the Living God, fall fresh on me." One of the highlights of Rev. Williams' walk with God was his 1972 Christian pilgrimage to the Holy Land and Rome, where we followed the path of Jesus Christ. His travel included visits to Bethany, Capernaum, Jerusalem and Jericho.

With his spiritual and civic involvement, his big hugs and infectious smile, his counsel to many people, regardless of their beliefs, backgrounds, and race, and his love for others, Rev. Williams became affectionately known simply as "Rev." Sometimes he was referred to as the "Gentle Giant."

Under Rev. Williams' leadership, the Mt. Calvary congregation grew and prospered. As pastor, Rev. Williams baptized hundreds of members and non-members in Skull Creek, following the Gullah traditions of Hilton Head Island. The river baptisms he performed were photographed and featured in National Geographic Magazine in 1987, and were the subject of many newspaper and magazine articles. He touched the lives of many nationally known figures with baptism and personal prayers of support, including legendary boxer Sugar Ray Leonard, former United States President Bill Clinton and U.S. Congressman James Clyburn.

In the late 1970s, Rev. Williams helped Mt. Calvary transition to having worship services every Sunday, rather than once a month. Through the next decades, the church expanded its programs and auxiliaries with the formation of four choirs, a Junior Deacons Ministry, the Men's Fellowship, Bible Study classes, a Kitchen Ministry, a Transportation Ministry and an Audio Visual Ministry. Believing in giving children a solid Christian foundation, Rev. Williams led the development of the Mt. Calvary Achievement School in 1992. For many years, he was the only male minister who supported the Terrestrial Paradise Youth Ministry, which provided spiritually based activities for youth across Beaufort and Jasper counties. Rev. Williams led the Mt. Calvary congregation through two major church renovation projects. He proudly led the church through its 100th anniversary celebration in 2014.

Beyond the walls of Mt. Calvary, Rev. Williams shared his leadership and guidance with numerous community organizations. He served as President of the Human Relations Council, as a board member with several organizations such as The Children's Center, the Island Medical District and the Hilton Head Chapter of the NAACP. He helped organize the Ministerial Alliance, the Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration program and parade, and the Volunteers In Medicine Clinic on Hilton Head Island. Believing in bringing island congregations together, Rev. Williams helped initiate and participated in pulpit exchanges with other denominations including Presbyterian, Episcopalian and Judaism. He was called upon often to offer prayer at events and meetings island-wide. He also worked along with the Chaplin for Hilton Head Hospital for many years.

Rev. Williams earned many accolades and awards for his contributions and leadership. Among them were the Alice Glenn Doughtie Good Citizenship Award, the Hilton Head Island Mayor's Honored Islander Award, the Native Island Business & Community Affairs Community Service Award, the NAACP Appreciation Award, Grandparent of the Year, the Homecoming Celebration Prestigious Encourager Award, and The Bahá'is of Beaufort County Human Rights Award. He was named Man of the Year by the Presbyterian Men of the Church.

Along with pastoring Mt. Calvary, Rev. Williams was a chaplain for the Beaufort County Sheriff's Office. He retired from the Beaufort County School District, where he worked as a bus driver, a bus supervisor and attendance monitor. He helped to initiate the district's In-School Suspension Program, which helped to refocus our youth. He was also a licensed barber and landscaper.

In recent years, Rev. Williams experience some illnesses that took a toll on his life, but he never gave up on God or on leading people to Jesus Christ. He served Mt. Calvary and the island he called home for 43 years. On Monday, November 14, 2016 at Hilton Head Hospital, God called his precious and gifted servant home to a new assignment and to be reunited with his loving wife, Elizabeth Patterson Williams, after 32 years apart.

In addition to his wife and parents, Rev. Williams was preceded in death by two brothers, Rev. John H. Williams and Dea. Walter Williams; two sisters, Addie G. Jones and Katie B. Williams; one brother-in-law, John Manson Williams; a niece, Bernice Williams-Paterson and Goddaughters, Dr. Angela Hortense Williams and Gwendolyn Mallett.

In moving to his new assignment, Rev. Williams leaves to cherish his memory his son Russell Williams (Paula) of Hilton Head Island, SC; his daughter Lucretia Williams Morris (Ernie) of Orlando, FL; six grandchildren, Benjamin and Janea Williams of Pinehurst, NC; Kathryn, Marcus and Keira Morris of Orlando, FL; and Da'moni Williams of Hilton Head Island, SC; two sisters, Lucy L. Dunlap and Catherine Williams (Anell), both of Warrenton, NC.; one brother, Preston Williams (Liz) of Brooklyn, New York; two brother-in-laws, Newton Greene Jr. (Kelly) of Hilton Head Island, SC, and Elijah Jones (Elouise) of Brooklyn, NY; four sister-in-laws, Irene Williams and Shirley (Sandy) Williams, both of Brooklyn, NY; and Margaret (David) Johnson of Bluffton, SC; and Johnnie Mae Mitchell of Charleston, SC; three Godchildren, Ariel, Kristen and Julia-Louise (Sunshine) Doe, of St. Helena Island, SC; Mt. Calvary church mother and family friend, Mary Green and Princess Margaret Stewart of Hilton Head Island, SC; Vivian Harris of Bluffton, SC, an honorary grandmother to his children and grandchildren; friends and Christian brothers, Rev. Dr. Arthur D. Sims Sr. of Orlando, FL; Rev. Ervin Green of Patterson, NJ; Rev. James Sims of Atlanta, Ga.; Pastor Kenneth Doe of St. Helena Island, SC, and Rev. Charles Hamilton of Bluffton, SC; sons and daughters of the ministry; and a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives and numerous friends.