



Presiding Elder George A. Ashford Sr.

June 23, 1929 - November 26, 2013

Presiding Elder George Ashford, Sr., was born in Winnsboro, South Carolina, June 23, 1929 and was the fifth of ten children born to the late Richard and Pearl Leitner Ashford.

Presiding Elder Ashford departed this earthly life on Tuesday, November 26, 2013 at his residence.

He was not only a loving husband to his wife, loving father to his children, but by nature and age acted as a second father to his siblings.

He began his ministry while in his teens, role playing throughout the community. Having received a vision from God, he accepted his call to the ministry and preached his first sermon entitled "Go Preach my Gospel Saith the Lord" at Mt. Zion AME Church, Winnsboro, South Carolina. He started in ministry in July 1948.

He was a graduate of Lake View High School and attended Allen. While attending Allen, he enlisted in the U.S. Army, serving his country during the Korean War, and received three Bronze Service Stars and a United Nations Service Medal. He received a Bachelor of Science degree at Allen University after serving in the armed forces. He later had a teaching career where he taught throughout the state of South Carolina. He received theological training from Dickerson Theological Seminary, Allen University and Columbia Bible College.

After a brief teaching career, he continued preaching but also had a career as a top salesman with North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Company for 31

years. He pastored throughout the state of South Carolina for over sixty years. He was the Presiding Elder of the Wateree District of the 7th Episcopal District of the SC African Methodist Episcopal Church. He also served as secretary of the AME Church. After retiring as presiding elder, he became a faithful member of Bethel AME Church.

He loved the Lord, his community and neighbors, cooking, gardening, "taking charge," and was very forthright and knew where he stood on issues.

He leaves to cherish precious memories, his children, Vanessa Ashford of the home, Valerie A. Brown (Alvin) of Burke, VA and George A. (Olisa) Ashford, Jr. of Columbia, SC; grandchildren, George Adrian Ashford, III, Arielle Brown, Geordan Alexander Ashford, and Alanna Brown; sister, Helen Cain (Shedrick) of Baltimore, MD; special cousins, Florence Ashford Gaston of Winnsboro, SC and Levell-Lee Ashford of Columbia, SC and a host of nieces, nephews, and other relatives and friends.

In addition to his parents and wife, he was preceded in death by eight siblings: Isiah Ashford, Lindsey Ashford, Lila Mae Ashford Geter, Daniel Ashford, Richard Ashford, Jr., Theodore Ashford, Roberta Ashford and Elizabeth Ashford.

Services will be held 12 noon Monday, December 2, 2013 at Bethel AME Church, 819 Woodrow Street, Columbia, SC, with interment to follow in Memorial Gardens of Columbia. The family will receive friends 5-7 pm Sunday, December 1, 2013 at Palmer Memorial Chapel

The family request that condolences and memorials be made on their web page @www.palmermemorialchapel.com.

Cemetery Details

Memorial Gardens of Columbia

Columbia, SC

Tribute Wall



“ *Presiding Elder George A. Ashford Sr.*

October 04, 2023 at 11:33 AM



“ *My Prayers go out to the Ashford Family, Presiding Elder Ashford sr. was a true man of God. May your family find peace and comfort at this time. many blessing for the entire family.*

*Love and peace,
Ammah, Alex, Darius and Ayanna*

The Wright Family

Ammah - December 07, 2013 at 10:47 AM



“ *On behalf of the Lake Braddock Secondary School PTSA, I wanted to express our deepest condolences. May the warmth of family and friends be with in these next few days and always.*

Cynthia Dupuy

Cynthia Dupuy - December 07, 2013 at 08:41 AM

MH

“ To the wonderful Ashford family,
We offer our deepest condolences at the time of transition. We send our continually prayers and love to each and everyone of you. May the warmth, grace and love of God keep your family throughout the days to come. We regret we can not be with you for this homegoing service. Rest assured all of thoughts and prayers are with you at this time of need.

Love,
Anthony, Marva, Nadia, Kasey and Austin
The Hazel Family

Marva Hazel - December 02, 2013 at 02:52 PM

TF

“ George and Lisa,
We pray that God's Strength and Love will shine through to comfort you and your family.
We hope you can feel our loving thoughts of caring and support that surround you today and always.
May all the warm memories you shared with your Father stay with you to comfort you through all the days ahead.
We regret that we cannot be with you.
Much Love and God Bless,
Penny and Tony Fisher
Your Silver Hill Family

Tony Fisher - December 02, 2013 at 10:56 AM

PP

“ My thoughts and prayers are with you and the family, Pastor and First Lady Ashford. May you find strength in our Great Creator.

Paulette Pinto - December 02, 2013 at 09:37 AM

MH

“ My family was truly blessed to be among those who had the honor of meeting and know Presiding Elder George Ashford, Sr. He had a heart of gold and a lot of wisdom. He asked my son DeAndre' one day after service while my son had on his Air Force JROTC uniform if he planned on joining the military and my son smiled and said yes but not before he went to college, Elder Ashford gave him a pat on the back and said that is a wise decision young man. He made my son's day. He will be missed by all. Our condolences to the Ashford family we all know that he is seated at the right hand of our Father in heaven.

Mary Ann, Jose', DeAndre' and Maya Hannah

Mary Ann Hannah - December 02, 2013 at 09:18 AM

PP

“ My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family, Pastor and First Lady Ashford. May the strength of our Great Creator be yours this and everyday.

Paulette Pinto - December 02, 2013 at 08:45 AM

PU

“ My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family, Pastor and First Lady Ashford. May the strength of our Great Creator be yours this and everyday.

Paulette Pinto, Journey UMC - December 02, 2013 at 08:42 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Presiding Elder George A. Ashford Sr..*



December 02, 2013 at 05:36 AM



“ *Sincere and heartfelt condolences to the Ashford family. ***"Death leaves a heartache no one can heal, love leaves a memory no one can steal."*

-Roslyn D.Meadows & Family

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Roslyn Meadows - December 01, 2013 at 11:23 PM



“ *Our prayers and thoughts are with you and your family during this difficult time.*

Brenda Jones and Paul Young

brenda jones - December 01, 2013 at 06:46 PM



“ *Our sincere sympathy to the Ashford family. The days our dad was Reverend Ashford's roommate at NHC still brings us comfort and joy. Reverend Ashford was a man of God to the end. May your love and memories keep your hearts at peace.*

Iris and the Riley family

iris Riley Tomah - December 01, 2013 at 02:54 PM

LA

“ Praying for Strength during your time of loss! God is the very source of Strength an a present help! Gone but Never Forgotten! I remember how Elder treated me as one of his very on children! He was a true example of a dedicated husband, father, grand father, friend, but most important, a Man after God's on Heart!!

Lakeshia KeeKee Allen - December 01, 2013 at 01:04 PM

ER

“ Presiding Elder George Ashford's love of God, wisdom, integrity, and humor made him unforgettable to all who were fortunate enough to meet him. May God's love and the warm memories of Elder Ashford's wonderful spirit comfort you and every generation of the Ashford family.

Warmest Regards,
Eddie Reddick

Eddie Reddick - November 30, 2013 at 11:33 PM

OA

“ May God comfort the Ashford family and the many families Rev. Ashford touched as a Father, Pastor and in the many capacities he served.

Olaolu Adewole - November 30, 2013 at 09:53 PM

SO

“ My condolences to the Ashford family. I met him for a brief period of time but what an indelible impression he made. He was a remarkable man and wonderful storyteller. I pray the Lord comfort you with many wonderful memories of the times you shared together.

*Deepest Sympathy,
Sherry Ollison*

Sherry Ollison - November 30, 2013 at 05:10 PM

RS

“ Remembering you at this time of loss, and praying that the reality of heaven's joys that your loved one is now experiencing will bring comfort to your heart.

*Reverend Dr. Derrick Scott &
St. Paul AME Church Family
Irmo, South Carolina 29063*

Reverend Dr Derrick Scott - November 30, 2013 at 03:23 PM

RG

*Remembering you and your family at this time and praying for you in your time of sorrow. May God bring you comfort and consolation during this time and in the forthcoming days. With deepest sympathy.
Reverend Rosette Gallman & Councilman Allen Gallman, Mt. Zion AME Church Family Jalapa, S.C.29355*

Rosette Gallman - December 01, 2013 at 07:18 PM

JW

“ Condolences to the Ahsford Family from the Browns Family in Panama City, Panama

jessicka williams - November 30, 2013 at 02:25 PM



“ *My condolences to the Asheford family in this time of need. In knowing that timing is never of thought in death but of during the holidays leaves hearts heavier with sorrow and pain. My prayers are with you guys today and for the days to come.*
With love , The Williams Family
(Keke, Deondre, and Bryanna)

Whakeela Mclaughlin - November 30, 2013 at 12:53 PM



“ *Jacqueline Stubbs-Pritchett lit a candle in memory of Presiding Elder George A. Ashford Sr.*



Jacqueline Stubbs-Pritchett - November 30, 2013 at 11:33 AM



“ *My condolences to Pastor Ashford and the family.*
Anita Blackwell

Anita Blackwell - November 30, 2013 at 09:57 AM



“ *Pastors, Clergy and Laity of the Newberry/Spartanburg District would like to express our deepest sympathy during your time of bereavement. Elder Ashford's presence across the Seventh Episcopal District will truly be missed. The Asheford Family is in our thoughts and prayers. May you find strength in God's word.*

Reverend Joseph Postell, Presiding Elder
Sister Roxanne Postell, Area Consultant

Newberry District - November 29, 2013 at 08:57 PM

PO

“ Dear uncle I will hold on 2 the many stories an life lessons which you have so lovingly shared with me. Even the ones learned via da switch, which motivated and compelled me to strive 2 bn da MAN u saw n me as a lil chap pushing lawn mover that I could bearylly see over! For these reasons and many more I will miss and love you to the end of my days cause you weren't just my uncle u were my friend!!!!

Love David/man

phire nku ogunbiyi - November 29, 2013 at 07:52 PM

ED

“ Please accept our sincere condolences on the passing of Presiding Elder Ashford. He was truly a blessing to the AME Church. May God's peace and the comfort of family and friends sustain you as you celebrate a life well-lived.

Humbly submitted

*Pastor Howard and Rev. Dr. Emilygail Dill
Allen Temple AME Church
Sandys, Bermuda*



Emily Dill - November 29, 2013 at 12:15 PM

ND

“ My prayer goes out to the Ashford family, I would like to express my condolence at this time to your family. The Bible is a great source of encouragement at times like this, a comforting thought is at Revelation 21:4 "And he will wipe out every tear from their eyes, and death will be no more, neither will mourning nor outcry nor pain be anymore. The former things have passed away"

Nikki Davis - November 29, 2013 at 09:01 AM



“ Fruit Abounds was purchased for the family of Presiding Elder George A. Ashford Sr..



November 29, 2013 at 08:48 AM

JW

“ Valerie and Family,

Lawrence and I want you and your family to know our prayers are with you all as you go through this difficult time. May God continue to bless each and every one of you .

Love from the Wrights
Lawrence and Jayne

Jayne Wright - November 28, 2013 at 08:01 PM