



Rev. Dr. George William Watson, Sr.

August 25, 1933 - February 16, 2021

Rev. Dr. George William Watson, Sr., son of the late Ellison “Bubba” Watson and the late Fanny Watson Ingram, was born in Aiken, South Carolina on August 25, 1933. He entered into eternal rest on Tuesday, February 16, 2021, surrounded by family in Columbia, South Carolina. He attended Mather Academy, a private boarding school in Camden, South Carolina, for his formative education. He was a great athlete and enjoyed playing football in his younger years.

George married his forever love of sixty-five years Adell Wilson Watson on August 16, 1955 in New York City. He later attended Claflin University in Orangeburg, South Carolina, where he joined Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. and graduated Magna Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Arts in Religion and Philosophy in 1961. In 1966, he graduated Magna Cum Laude from the Gammon Theological Seminary in Atlanta, Georgia with his Master of Divinity degree. To compliment his degree in Divinity, George earned a certificate from Edinburgh University in Scotland in 1974. He holds an Honorary Doctor of Divinity degree from Claflin University.

Once completing his education, George began his professional roles in the United Methodist Church throughout congregations in South Carolina. He served as the pastor of St. Mark United Methodist Church and Antioch/Shepherd United Methodist Church in Sumter; Bethel United

Methodist Church in Marion; Old Bethel United Methodist Church in Charleston; and Trinity United Methodist Church in Orangeburg.

In addition to his pastoral roles, George also served as the Chaplain for the College of Charleston, the Medical University of South Carolina, South Carolina State University, and the District Superintendent of Florence and Spartanburg. Within his ministry, George loved connecting with people, specifically the younger generation. He always encouraged young people to be better versions of themselves. He established the George W. Watson Endowed Scholarship at Trinity United Methodist Church.

He served alongside his beloved wife Adell. From their union, they were blessed with two children: Jill Watson Asouzu and George William Watson, Jr., and their “adopted son,” the late Jimmie Lee Gadsen. Together, the couple broke many barriers for African Americans in the United Methodist Church in South Carolina and beyond.

George was an accomplished man, holding several honors, accolades and memberships. To name a few, he served as a Delegate for the Jurisdiction and the General Conferences. He also was selected by Gov. Richard Riley to represent the clergy of South Carolina at the Presidential Prayer Breakfast in Washington, DC. He was a member of the NAACP; the Committee on Higher Education of South Carolina Conference; Board of Discipleship of the United Methodist Church; and the Claflin University International Alumni Association.

In 1996, George retired in Spartanburg, South Carolina and later relocated to Orangeburg, South Carolina. In his retirement he enjoyed gardening, cooking, collecting antiques, reading, watching sports and traveling with his family. He continued to travel throughout South Carolina for pastoral engagements as requested and was heavily involved as a board member and chaplain for First Steps in Orangeburg County. His greatest joy in life was serving his

community and his greatest strength was his ability to share the teachings of the Lord and bring people to the faith. Though a serious man at times, George will always be remembered for his quick humor and strong love for his family.

In addition to his parents, George was preceded in death by his dear wife Adell Wilson Watson; his brothers Leon Watson, Sr. and Samuel Watson; and his brother-in-law Elgin "June" Wilson. He leaves to cherish his memories daughter Jill (Chris) Asouzu of Columbia, SC and his son George W. (Monique) Watson, Jr. of Spartanburg, SC. He will be especially missed by his seven grandchildren, who affectionately referred to him as "Papa," four great-grandchildren; his sisters Sheila (Fred) Danforth of New Ellenton, SC and Shirley Patterson of Sumter, SC; his sisters-in-law: Catherine Watson of Washington, DC, Mary (George) Strader of Washington, DC, Deaconess Valeria (Robert) Miller of Capitol Heights, MD, and Rita Strange of Temple Hill, MD; and his brother-in-law Rev. Dr. Samuel (Norma) Wilson of Forestville, MD, and a host of beloved nieces and nephews.

To view the livestream of the service, please use the link below:

<https://youtu.be/SQ8Lyu920KQ>

Previous Events

Public Viewing

FEB **19**. 2:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

Palmer Memorial Chapel - Columbia
1200 Fontaine Place
Columbia, SC 29223
(803) 786-6300
palmermemorialchapel@gmail.com
<https://www.palmermemorialchapel.com>

Viewing by Invitation Only

FEB **20**. 10:00 AM - 10:45 AM (ET)

Shandon United Methodist Church
3407 Devine Street
Columbia, SC 29205

A Celebration of Life - By Invitation Only

FEB **20**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Shandon United Methodist Church
3407 Devine Street
Columbia, SC 29205

Tribute Wall



“ *Rev. Dr. George William Watson, Sr.*

October 04, 2023 at 11:33 AM



“ *I just heard of the passing of Rev. Watson. Sending prayers to the entire family. To the children, remember him in your heart and what he taught you all will NEVER go away as with my Dad who always enjoyed Rev. Watson's sermons and just being around him. Memories will always be with you. To Sis. Danforth, I did not know that Rev. Watson was your brother, but when the connection was clear, I understand why you are such a good leader. I served as one of your Grand Associate Deputies from District Seven. Rev. Watson visited Lamar-Ebenezer Charge (Sandy Grove UMC and John Wesley UMC) often when Rev. Charles K. Wilson was our Pastor. I got to know him well at that time. May God Bless you all and give you strength in the days to come.*

*Inez Bess Lee
Sandy grove UMC*

Inez Bess Lee - February 21, 2021 at 05:00 PM



“ *I was honored to have known Rev. Watson. Sincere condolences to family and friends. The Mack & McCray family
John Wesley UMC*

Ronica McCray - February 20, 2021 at 07:59 PM



RH

“ We are at Camden First United Methodist Church, Camden, SC were saddened to hear of the passing of a “son” of the church. Reverend Watson’s life and legacy in the Church is one of distinction and Christian service. He shaped and molded so many of us on the journey. We will forever grateful for his life and ministry among and his mentor ship. R.I.Power Dr. Watson. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family in this season of significant loss.

Reverend Keith Hunter - February 20, 2021 at 05:39 PM

BC

“ I just heard of Dr. Watson’s death. I served with him as Chaplain at SCSU and Claflin and Catholic Campus Minister at both institutions in the 80’s and early 90’s. We were also neighbors as I am a Xaverian Brother and lived in the large white house on the corner of Treadwell St. Brother George and I conducted many Ecumenical Service as put on suppers for the students. May He rest in the peace of Christ Jesus His Lord and Brother and may God’s Consoling Spirit be with all of you family members.

*Brother Jim Connolly, CFX
Danvers, MA*

Brother Jim Connolly, CFX - February 20, 2021 at 04:25 PM

CA

*Thanks Brother Jim
Chris (son Inlaw) and Jill Asouzu(daughter)*

chris c Asouzu - February 21, 2021 at 09:42 PM

GS

“ Our deepest condolences to the Watson Family.
May Your Faith In Christ Sustain You.
The Alsbrooks Girls,
Gayle A. Singleton and Gwendolyn A. Mitchell

Gayle A. Singleton - February 20, 2021 at 02:28 PM

GS

“ Gayle A. Singleton lit a candle in memory of
Rev. Dr. George William Watson, Sr.



Gayle A. Singleton - February 20, 2021 at 02:22 PM

RS

“ My deepest condolences and prayers go out
to the family and all those connected in your
time of sorrow. From Rev. Rickey/Yvonne
Stuckey and the Lamar/Ebenezer charge.
May God bless and keep you in these hours
and the days to come.



Rev. Rickey Stuckey - February 20, 2021 at 08:35 AM

LB

“ My prayers and condolences to the family 🙏
Linda S Badger, Orangeburg

Linda S Badger - February 19, 2021 at 09:17 PM

LB

“ My prayers to the family. 🙏 Linda S Badger

Linda S Badger - February 19, 2021 at 09:15 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Rev. Dr. George William Watson, Sr..*



February 19, 2021 at 03:00 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Rev. Dr. George William Watson, Sr..*



February 19, 2021 at 11:29 AM



“ *To the Watson Family,*

To God be the glory for the wonderful things He has done in and through Rev. Dr. George W. Watson, Sr., For the Lord will comforted his people and have mercy...Times like these brings a flood of memories of so many times shared. Rev (as he was affectionately called in the community) was a true cornerstone in the Belle Acres Community. He will be sadly missed by all. Praying you'll know God's comfort and peace and that memories will keep your father close. With Sympathy Mr. & Mrs. Isaac (Patricia) Haigler, Orangeburg, SC



Mr. & Mrs. Isaac (Patricia) Haigler - February 19, 2021 at 10:54 AM

RS

I pray that God will give you the strength in this your time of bereavement coming from Rose in Jamaica

Rose Simpson - February 20, 2021 at 05:06 PM

AP

My condolences to friends and family of George as I grieve the passing of my Mather Academy classmate.

Alethia Porter - February 23, 2021 at 03:58 PM

PP

“ Heartfelt prayers and condolences to you all on the loss of this Gentle Giant, Uncle George. He was truly a man of God, full of faith, hope, incite, vision, and infinite wisdom. He was a wealthy leader with a diverse abundance of followers, students, and team members. He loved unconditionally and lived life out loud. He believed in righteousness, favor, prayer, and justice. He believed in family first and loved you all with all his heart. He wanted all things for the good of order. He chastised wrong yet didnt judge but taught lessons to right things. He was the epitome of a kindred spirit, a Godly man of principles and purpose. He was revered and respected by all and returned respect even in adversity. He captivated every space and sanctuary as an orator with commitment, passion, empathy, compassion, love, scripture, praise, and power. He was called by God to Ministry and I know God said overwhelming "Well Done". He was an ambassador, disciple, advocate, counselor, steward, preacher, teacher, mentor, peace keeper, public servant, drum major, devote husband, father, grandfather, uncle, cousin, and faithful friend. Uncle George was a legend and his legacy lives on in each of you. I can hear him say, "Do the right thing, for the right reason, with purpose and prayer, I Dare You. I believe in you and I love you." Uncle George gained his wings and is reunited with Aunt Dell, the love of his life as he walks on heavens throne with God the Father and His Son Jesus. The trumpet sounded and called him home. We will miss him deeply as Heaven gained a mighty angel George Watson. May the Armor of God Embrace and Comfort You, Granting you Peace. Godspeed...



Patty Jaye Garrett Patterson - February 19, 2021 at 09:35 AM

TC

“ *The Peacock and Murdaugh families of Ashton, S. C. purchased the Crystal Cross Bouquet for the family of Rev. Dr. George William Watson, Sr..*



The Peacock and Murdaugh families of Ashton, S. C. -
February 19, 2021 at 07:36 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Rev. Dr. George William Watson, Sr..*



February 18, 2021 at 06:46 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Rev. Dr. George William Watson, Sr..*



February 18, 2021 at 06:04 PM

VR

“ *My deepest and heartfelt condolence is extended to Jill and family in the death of your beloved father.*

*Sincerely
Veronica Ramseur*

Veronica Ramseur - February 18, 2021 at 05:13 PM

YS

“ You friends at Experience Columbia SC purchased the Summer's Light Bouquet for the family of Rev. Dr. George William Watson, Sr..



You friends at Experience Columbia SC - February 18, 2021 at 02:42 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Rev. Dr. George William Watson, Sr..



February 18, 2021 at 11:15 AM



“ 20 files added to the album Memories Album



Palmer Memorial Chapel - February 18, 2021 at 10:01 AM

RF

Dearest Jill, Chris and family, we extend our deepest sympathy and we are thinking of you all during these difficult times. Rosalyn and Roy Smith

Rosalyn Frierson-Smith - February 18, 2021 at 08:08 PM

FJ

“The greatest among you shall be your servant”-Matthew 23:11.
Rev.Dr.George Watson was truly a Great Servant of God! He was a Blessing to the Church, Family and Friends.

Frankye L. Johnson - February 18, 2021 at 09:10 AM

BW

“ Remembering the joy of being in the presence of the Watsons. I will cherish the opportunities to reconnect with Rev. Watson over the years. May God's love and care surround you in the memories you share with family and friends.

Bryon and Josefa Bethea Wall - February 17, 2021 at 05:46 PM

LN

“ DR. GEORGE W. WATSON:
1. A GENTLE GIANT
WITH GRACIOUS GENEROSITY::
2. A GALVANIC GENTLEMAN
WITH THE GATEWAY TO GENTLENESS
TOWARD MANKIND::
3.GODLY GRATITUDE
WITH A GRIPPING GROOVE :
4. FINALLY, A GENUINE GUY ::
REST IN PEACE !
LEON N.SR., & VIRGINIA B.RICHBURG,
ONTA, JOY R.PARSON AND FAMILY

LEON N.RICHBURG,SR - February 17, 2021 at 12:59 PM

EL

I'm am so glad to have known oh but for a short time @ JWUMC of Lamar. The 2 things that come to mind when I think of you, 1st was the day my 3yr old granddaughter was up to the alter where you asked the young children to come and you said as they were dismissed that my granddaughter keep her eyes on you as you spoke. The 2nd fund came in this month of February "Fat Tuesday" and you asked who made the fried potatoes and I said I did, and you replied you know what you doing. I so loved your wife bcuz she reminded me of my Grandmother who too was the wife of a man called my God to minister. May you rest in Eternal Peace!

Etta Lyles - February 20, 2021 at 02:27 PM