



Rev. Willie Furman Dicks, Jr.

November 12, 1949 - November 27, 2020

Chaplain Major (Ret) Willie Furman Dicks, Jr., departed this earthly life on Friday, November 27, 2020, in Sumter, South Carolina. He was born on November 12, 1949, in Sumter, to Mrs. Addell Singleton Dicks and the late Willie F. Dicks, Sr. Chaplain Dicks was baptized, confirmed and raised as a member of Emmanuel United Methodist Church, his family's home church for generations, in Sumter.

He was educated in the public schools of Sumter County, graduating from Lincoln High School in the Class of 1967. He furthered his education at Claflin University, Orangeburg, South Carolina, where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemistry and Biology in 1971. There, Willie was inducted into Omega Psi Phi, Fraternity, Incorporated.

In 1976, he was licensed to preach by the South Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church and graduated in 1979 with a Master of Divinity degree from the Interdenominational Theological Center and Gammon Theological Seminary, Atlanta, Georgia. While in seminary, he served several churches in the North Georgia Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church.

After graduating from seminary, he served as pastor of St. James United Methodist Church in Sumter and pastor of the Marion Parish (Bethel,

Springville, and Pleasantville United Methodist Churches) in Marion, South Carolina, until his April 8, 1985 appointment to serve as a Chaplain in the United States Air Force.

His assignments as an Air Force Chaplain were as follows: Lowry Air Force Base, Denver, Colorado; Osan Air Force Base, Republic of South Korea; Carswell Air Force Base, Fort Worth, Texas; Walter Reed Medical Center, Washington, District of Columbia; Scott Air Force Base, Bellville, Illinois; Charleston Air Force Base, Charleston, South Carolina; Shaw Air Force Base, Sumter; and his final assignment Langley Air Force Base, Hampton, Virginia. He retired from the Air Force after twenty years of honorable service on April 1, 2005.

Rev. Dicks returned to the South Carolina Annual Conference and served as pastor of Oro United Methodist Church in Pageland, South Carolina, New Hope United Methodist Church in Ridgeville, South Carolina, St. Paul United Methodist Church in Ravenel, South Carolina, and St. Matthews United Methodist Church and Emmanuel United Methodist Church, both in Camden, South Carolina. Rev. Dicks retired in June 2020 as an Elder with forty-three years of service. He had an infectious personality and a singing voice that graced and touched many lives throughout his ministry. His special love for his family and friends was priceless.

He leaves to honor and cherish precious memories his wife, Kechia Crump McSwain Dicks of the home; three daughters: Melissa Evette Dicks of Charlotte, North Carolina, Adriene Monique Dicks of Atlanta, Georgia, and Keshana Crump of New Orleans, Louisiana; two sons: Kelvin (Jade) McSwain, Jr. of Hawaii and Kemon McSwain of Anchorage, Alaska; eight grandchildren; a loving 95-year-old mother Addell Singleton Dicks of Columbia, South Carolina; a brother Rev. John (Beverly) Dicks, Sr. and their four children: Keisha (Patrick) Ware, Tomika (Antwan) Brown, John William

(Keisha) Dicks, Jr., and Kayla Dicks; two sisters-in-law: Giselle Larkins and Denise Smith; five brothers-in-law: Kevin (Darlene) Dunnaway, Ricky (Sylvia) Crump, Frank (Annette) Crump, Brent Crump, Noel (Theve) Crump, and Woodrow (Shirley) Singleton; a host of cousins, nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

In lieu of flowers, please send donations to:
Emmanuel United Methodist Church Building Fund
PO Box 1203
Sumter, South Carolina 29151

Cemetery Details

Fort Jackson National Cemetery

Previous Events

Public Viewing

DEC 6. 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>

Public Viewing

DEC 7. 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM (ET)

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

Graveside Service

DEC 7. 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (ET)

Fort Jackson National Cemetery

Tribute Wall



“ *Rev. Willie Furman Dicks, Jr.*

October 04, 2023 at 11:33 AM



“ *Chaplain Willie Dicks was a teacher and pastor who was cheerful in our duty time at Carswell Air Force Base in Fort Worth Texas. He was my role model as there were very few African American Chaplains in the Air Force and fewer African American Chaplain Assistants. I was one of the few and Chaplain Dicks taught me to be proud and do the right thing. He also taught me how to make a mean brisket! I miss hearing his sermons and enjoyed his encouragement of me to be a steadfast servant. Jeff Henderson, Cedar Vale Kansas.*

Jeff Henderson - August 24, 2023 at 05:24 PM



Great mentor and friend,

Kelvin Gardner - September 17, 2024 at 05:27 AM



“ *Chaplain Dicks was my pastor at Oro UMC in Pageland S.C. He was an awesome Man of God/ leader. My prayers are with the Dicks Family. May God strengthen & uphold you'll doing this time of bereavement. RIP Pastor Dicks*



James D Leach AKA (Bobo) - December 07, 2020 at 07:35 PM

SE

“ To Kechia Dicks and family,

It is with great sadness that we learned of Chaplain/Reverend Dicks' passing. Please accept our heartfelt condolences, and we hope that in a small way they help you get through these difficult times.

Chaplain Dicks was a longtime friend of our family. He always had a smile and a kind word to say. He will be sorely missed. We love you and will be praying for you and the family.

-Gregory, Kandi, and Nicholas Marsh

-Tyrise, Shannon, Jaiden, Aaliyah and Ava Elam

-Cedric, Brittani, and Sydney Smith

Shannon Elam - December 07, 2020 at 07:21 PM

CB

“ To the Dicks family, My wife Beverly and i would like to express our deepest sympathy to you at this time. Willie and i served on the Student Council together at Lincoln High School. Much encouragement to you and the entire family. John, i am praying for you and your family also. We live in Charlotte, N.C. If ever you need prayer or someone to share with, please call my cell phone, 704-281-0129. Much love to all of your.

Rev. Harry Burns & Family

Chaplain Harry Burns - December 07, 2020 at 02:28 PM

LW

“ Bro. T.J. & Minister Dr. Lucretia D. Wilson send our condolences to the family. Chaplain Dicks was our Spiritual Leader at Scott Air Force Base. He was also a member of the Gospel choir I directed under his leadership. Chaplain Dicks was an anointed pastor, teacher, preacher and singer. We will miss him!!!

Family, continue to hold to God's unchanging hand.

Lucretia D. Wilson - December 07, 2020 at 01:33 PM

HS

“ My happiest memory of my cousin Willie were the summers we spent together as children running from our grandmother home to his, we shared many adventures that I will always remember. To my family I send my heartfelt condolence. Hester Dowdy Sow



Hester Dowdy Sow - December 06, 2020 at 08:18 PM

ED

“ To Mrs. Kechia Dicks and the Family of Rev Willie F. Dicks

We express our deepest sympathy with you on the passing of our dear cousin. He was a loving and caring person and a supportive pillar during our time of grief with the passing of our parents.

Our lives were certainly enhanced by personally knowing him. We pray that God will comfort you during this loss with all the loving memories that you have of him.

With our sincere condolences,

Ernest Dicks, Barbara Dicks, Deborah Maxwell

ERNEST H DICKS - December 06, 2020 at 05:28 PM

VK

“ I am so sorry for your loss. I hope you will feel the prayers that surround your family. I knew Rev. Dicks when he was a youth at Emmanuel UMC. He often returned to visit and to offer his service for various programs throughout the years.



Virginia King - December 06, 2020 at 04:24 PM

AD

“ Sending condolences and prayers from Lt. Col Ret. and Alice Davis to the family of our beloved chaplain and brother. Praying for strength during this time of bereavement. God Bless you all.



The Davis Family

Alice Davis - December 06, 2020 at 04:07 PM

CK

“ I had the honor of working with Ch Dicks at Myrtle Beach AFB. He was a wonderful person and we became good friends. My prayers are with his family and I know the angels are singing today. Pat Kelley

Catherine Patricia Kelley - December 06, 2020 at 03:46 PM

TS

“ The Burnell Family, Pageland. SC lit a candle in memory of Rev. Willie Furman Dicks, Jr.



The Burnell Family, Pageland. SC - December 06, 2020 at 10:26 AM

TS

“ *The Burnells Of Pageland, SC lit a candle in memory of Rev. Willie Furman Dicks, Jr.*



The Burnells of Pageland, SC - December 06, 2020 at 10:23 AM

RD

“ *To the Dicks family,
Thank you for sharing your loved one with the Church. We are grateful for his leadership across the Annual Conference. Now he rests from the Church Militant to the Church Triumphant. May God's peace be with all of you in your time of sadness.
Rev. Robin Dease, Hartsville, SC*

Robin Dease - December 06, 2020 at 09:26 AM

TF

“ *The Chambers Family sent a virtual gift in memory of Rev. Willie Furman Dicks, Jr.*



The Chambers Family - December 06, 2020 at 09:24 AM

TU

“ *The Chambers Family Unity UMC sent a virtual gift in memory of Rev. Willie Furman Dicks, Jr.*



The Chambers Family Unity UMC - December 06, 2020 at 09:19 AM

SD

“ I will always remember Reverend Willie Dicks, with great fondness, because he is the one that baptized me. Sandra T Drown



Sandra T Drown - December 05, 2020 at 04:52 PM

JF

“ Jonathan Gillens And Family sent a virtual gift in memory of Rev. Willie Furman Dicks, Jr.



Jonathan Gillens and Family - December 05, 2020 at 12:48 AM

WE

Sending Condolences to the Dicks Family. From the Evans Family & the St. James UM Church family.

Wanda L Evans - December 07, 2020 at 01:22 PM

EJ

“ Ex-Neighbors will missed a Great individual from Broad Street. Another one gone away. Prayers to the family. Mrs. Evelina P. Farmer and Mr. Hammie L. Johnson & Mrs. Esther Marie Farmer Judon Johnson.



Esther Marie Farmer Judon Johnson - December 04, 2020 at 11:30 PM

AG

With Sympathy and Prayers, no life passes without a purpose, no sorrow goes uncomforted. Warm thoughts of sympathy are with you now, along with a prayer that God will be close to you and your family in the days ahead.

*Deepest Sympathy,
Love & Prayers
Amelia Geddis-Porter & Family*

Amelia Geddis-Porter - December 06, 2020 at 04:53 PM

JG

“ *We are deeply sorry for your loss and we hope that you feel the love that surrounds you now and always. Praying for your healing, comfort, strength and peace during this painful time. Chaplain Dick was our spiritual leader for several years at Shaw AFB and during that time we were blessed to call him a friend. We will miss his infectious smile and his friendship.*



Jonathan & Michelle Gillens - December 04, 2020 at 06:01 PM

BR

“ *My Friend, My Chaplain, and My Brother in Arms,
I was so hurt when I got the news that you had gone on to Glory!
But then tears faded and the fun memories started to flow. I still
remember our deployment together to Moron Spain when we made
you an official PORTDAWG! Your Sunday Services was a
welcoming relief to a stressful situation for the men and women on
the ground keeping the operation going day and night. We couldn't
have done our mission without your prayers and spiritual guidance.
The men and women of the 437th Aerial Port Squadron really
enjoyed you as our Squadron Chaplain because you were such an
inspiration to each of us. Your inspiration and personal love for
Jesus Christ was definitely a big lift to my soul. I remember you
coming to my rescue when I lost my wife on 28 March 2001 at
0120hrs in the morning. I was devastated but you help me find my
way to Christ again. You preached an amazing sermon at her
homegoing services and the song you sang still got folks here at the
Squadron talking about it. Thank you for the Blessings and Thank
you for being my Friend. I will be there Monday to give you your
final salute my friend but I know if I continue to strive to be the God
fearing man as you were, if I keep Loving God like you and if I keep
holding on to God's Loving Hands I will see you again.*

*Job Well Done My Good and Faithful Servant
CMSgt (RET) Bobby Robinson
Your Old Chief DAWG*

PORTDAWG!!!!!!

Bobby Robinson - December 04, 2020 at 04:39 PM



“ *Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Rev. Willie Furman Dicks, Jr..*



December 04, 2020 at 01:53 PM



“ *The Dicks Family,
Deepest sympathy in the passing of Chaplain Willie Dicks. I was saddened to hear of your lost. He was a wonderful pastor at Langley Gospel Service and sang beautifully. He will be missed. You are in my prayers. Well done thy good and faithful servant.*
Theodora Myers



Theodora Myers - December 04, 2020 at 10:23 AM



“ *Kechia my condolences goes out to you and the family due to the loss of your husband. My prayers are with you during this time. May God continue to strengthen you and the family*

Terry Robinson - December 03, 2020 at 11:14 PM



“ *Gloria Harris lit a candle in memory of Rev. Willie Furman Dicks, Jr.*



Gloria Harris - December 03, 2020 at 10:11 PM

HT

“ *Hilda Truesdel-Phillips lit a candle in memory of Rev. Willie Furman Dicks, Jr.*



Hilda Truesdel-Phillips - December 03, 2020 at 08:16 PM

LN

“ *REVEREND W.F.DICKS;
A MAN OF IMPECABLE
INTELLIGENCE,DECENTLY DIGNIFIED,
GODLY SOPHISTICATION AND
SPIRITUALLY REFINED :
REST IN PEACE !
LEON N. & VIRGINIA B.RICHBURG,SR -SUMMERTON,SC
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS [CLARENDON
COUNTY,SC]*



LEON N.RICHBURG,SR - December 03, 2020 at 02:17 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Rev. Willie Furman Dicks, Jr..*



December 03, 2020 at 12:05 PM

MM

“ *To The Family of Rev Chaplain Wille Furman Dicks,
My condolences to the family. He will be deeply missed. You all are in my prayers.
Sorry for your loss.
The Mosquero Family.
Mrs. Gracie E. Mosquero, MALEKA Mosquero, Saleka Mosquero,
and Kimberly Mosquero*



Maleka Mosquero - December 03, 2020 at 09:17 AM

CK

“ *To the family of Rev. Willie F. Dicks, Jr., The apostle Paul in Romans 6:4 reminds us, “We were buried therefore with Him by baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.” From the Concerned Clergy of Kershaw County, SC, we send our sincere condolences. Rev. Marion O. Bennett, President; Rev. Charles Davis, Vice President and Rev. Edward L. Sanders, Secretary.*



Concerned Clergy of KC - December 02, 2020 at 09:37 PM

MD

“ *Praying For The Family As You Go Through This Difficult Time*

Mr & Mrs Leroy Dixon Jr & Mr Trey Dixon3 - December 02, 2020 at 08:00 PM

TD

“ Unity UMC Family Lugoff SC



Tracie Dixon - December 02, 2020 at 07:56 PM

JC

May there be happy memories, peace in your hearts; and prayers for all the family. His was a life well lived! Love, Janet - The Smith, Fields and Clayton Families.

Janet Clayton - December 04, 2020 at 03:34 PM

LW

To the family of the Rev. Willie F. Dicks Jr. Our heart felt condolences. We remember and think highly of Willie as part of our St. James Family whom our parents spoke of with pride. Willie was there providing support and comfort and during the homegoing of our mom, dad, and brother. Willie was instrumental in getting Harold James home from overseas Air Force duty just in time to see his twin daughters being born. The Wilson and James Families are eternally grateful for his faithfulness, devotion, and spirit of love.

Lonnie Wilson - December 06, 2020 at 09:43 PM



God called home another faithful saint. He will also embrace you with love as you grieve for the loss of a love one. RIP Willie

*Peace, Joy and Love,
Barbara Wilson Duffin & Family*

Barbara Wilson Duffin - December 07, 2020 at 08:17 AM