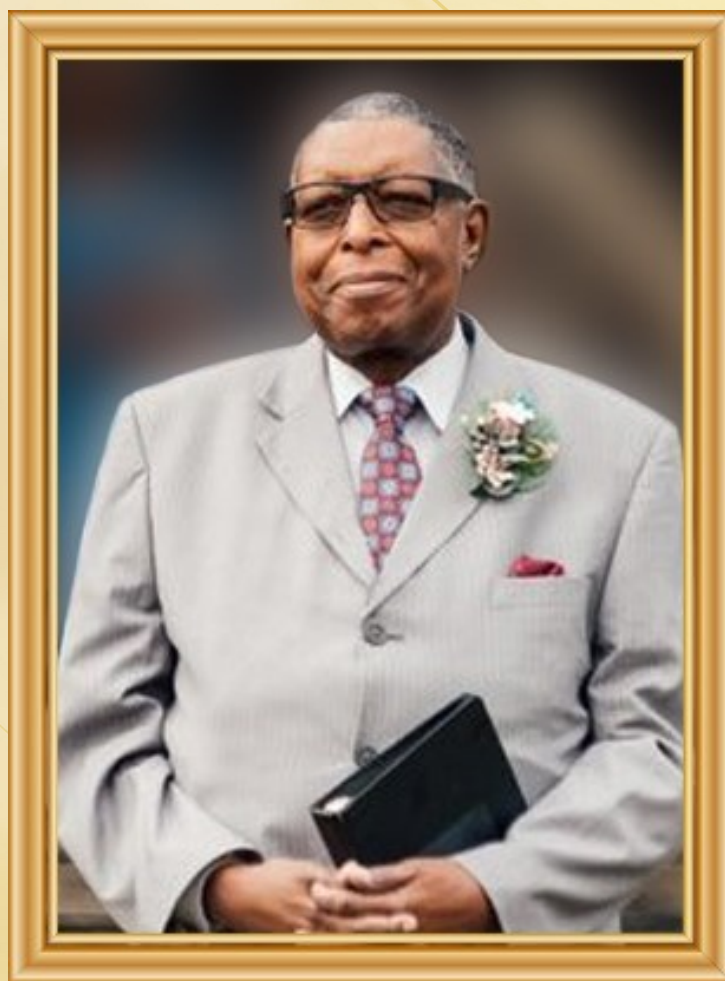


THE MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR

PASTOR EMERITUS

REVEREND EDWARD WILLIAMSON, JR.



Sunrise:
April 30, 1950

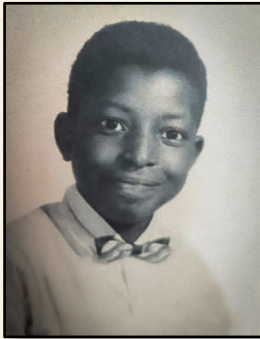
Sunset:
September 7, 2023

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2023

Family Hour: 10:00 a.m. | Service: 11:00 a.m.

From the Heart Church Ministries®
4949 Allentown Road • Suitland, Maryland 20746
Bishop John A. Cherry, II - Episcopal Pastor

OBITUARY



Reverend Edward Williamson, Jr., entered eternal rest on Thursday, September 7, 2023, in Pittsboro, North Carolina.

On April 30, 1950, Edward Williamson, Jr., was born to the late Edward Williamson, Sr., and Rebecca Curry Williamson in Washington, D.C. He was the eldest of six children.

Edward was raised in Forestville, Maryland, and educated in Prince George's County Maryland Public Schools. He attended Brooks Road Elementary School, Frances Scott Key Junior High School, and graduated from Suitland High School in 1968.

Edward furthered his education at Morgan State University where he majored in Sociology and Anthropology. His dream since high school was to be a psychologist. In 1978, he married his childhood sweetheart, the late Janice Dorsey Williamson.

Edward's heart's desire was to educate Black youth and help them find their purpose in life. His first job after college was with the Prince George's County Neighborhood Youth II Program as a counselor. He later worked as a counselor in the Prince George's County Department of Corrections. And he subsequently became the Aftercare Program Coordinator and later the Director of the Prince George's County Day Reporting Program, a program for residents to be released back into the community.

Edward gave his life to the Lord Jesus Christ in 1984 and joined From the Heart Church Ministries (FTH) in 1985 under the leadership of the late Dr. John A. Cherry, his spiritual advisor and mentor. He served in several ministries in the church namely the Church School, Prison, and Transportation Ministries, and the School of Knowledge.

After 20 years of service in the Prince George's County government, Edward went into full-time ministry at From the Heart as a staff minister in 1996. An ordained elder in the house of God, he was appointed Lead Elder in the church in 1997. He and the late Reverend Janice Williamson hearts' desire was to help married couples who were struggling to have marriages that glorified God. They were pivotal in From the Heart's counseling care, call on lives and the ministerial training processes.

In 2009, Reverend Williamson was appointed by the Founding Episcopal Pastor, the late Dr. John A. Cherry, to pastor the From the Heart Church Ministries of Raleigh church in North Carolina, where his wife, the late Reverend Janice Williamson served by his side as the church administrator. However, due to health challenges he retired as pastor in 2017. The following year, Janice went home to be with the Lord. In 2020, Edward married his angel sent by God, Carolyn Williamson, who was his devoted help-meet and loving caregiver during his health challenges. Reverend Williamson finished his course on September 7, 2023. He is now absent from the body and present with the Lord. He will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved him.

Reverend Williamson leaves to cherish his memory, his beloved wife, Carolyn Williamson; sons, Kevin Burks, Ahmed Williamson (Mattice), and Dexter Hodges (Brittney); daughter, Trelvia Cromartie (Edward); surrogate children: Felton Werdlow (Cynthia), Kitanda Frazier (James), Tonya Powers (Tyrone), and Gina Lewis; 13 grandchildren, including Janae Barbour (Theodore) who was raised as their daughter; five great-grandchildren; brothers: Ronald Williamson (Ella), Andrew Williamson (Lois), and Carlos Williamson; sister and matriarch of the family, Rita Williamson; brothers-in-law, Bill Hodges (Gail) and William Hodges (Elaine); sister-in-law, Yvonne Manick (Patrick); and a host of nephews, nieces, uncles, aunts, cousins, and his FTH family.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Edward Williamson, Sr., and Rebecca Curry Williamson; brother, Levellis Williamson; daughter, Janica Werdlow; and wife, Reverend Janice Williamson.

ORDER OF SERVICE

Invocation

Congregational Hymn “Amazing Grace”

Scripture Reading

Old Testament: Psalm 27:1-6

New Testament: John 14:1-6

Prayer of Comfort

Selection “It Is Well With My Soul”

Mrs. Linda Gray

Acknowledgements (*Remarks*)

Brigadier General Ahmed T. Williamson, *Representing Children*

Mr. Elijah Williamson, *Representing Grandchildren and Great-grandchildren*

Minister Patricia Taylor, *Daughter in the Ministry*

Pastor Michael White, *Son in the Ministry*

Founding Mother Diana P. Cherry

Poem Mr. Lawrence White

Obituary (*Read Silently*)

Song of Preparation “Not About Us”

Mr. Alton Cheaves

Message of Hope Bishop John A. Cherry, II

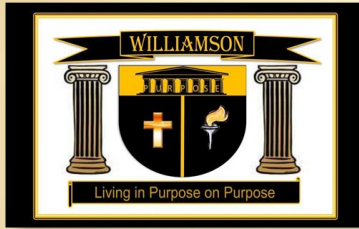
Episcopal Pastor

Call to Christ

Benediction

Recessional

FAMILY SENTIMENTS



Edward (Son, Brother, Father, Uncle, and Cousin),

You leave behind a legacy as large as the Mishpachah family you created on earth. You were a unifying force, bringing people together from all corners of the world, and in your presence, we found true kinship. You were a compassionate teacher with a unique ability to recognize an individual's talents and spiritual gifts. Today we are comforted by the knowledge that on Earth, you tirelessly carried out God's work. Your legacy lives on in our hearts, and we honor your memory by continuing the journey you guided us on.

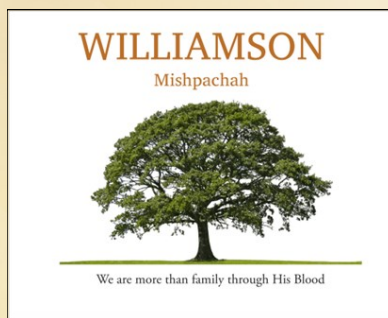
Love The Williamson Mishpachah Family

In loving memory of Pop Pop/Grandpa,

As we reflect on the legacy he leaves behind, we are filled with gratitude for the moments of joy, wisdom, and love he shared with us throughout the years. Though he may no longer be with us in person, we are grateful he is no longer in pain and has reunited with his family and his Lord and King. His spirit lives on in the cherished memories we hold dear. We honor not only the man we loved but also the love he gave with our lives and compassion to others. Grandpa; you will forever hold a special place in our hearts.



Love, the grandchildren and great-grandchildren



Your life was a blessing. Your memory will remain in our hearts. We are deeply saddened by your loss but grateful for the time we had together. You may have left us far too soon, but your loving presence will endure forever in our hearts and souls. Rest in peace, you are gone but never forgotten.

“Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away”. - James 4:14 KJV

On behalf of the Curry Family!!

There are simply no words to express our gratitude and admiration for the one we affectionately call “Gpa.” We were constantly amazed by his ability to share his love and godly wisdom for each and every one of us at the absolute perfect moment and time, but we are mostly thankful for the love he had for our mother, Carolyn. “Gpa” also provided words of encouragement and inspiration with both a calming voice and an infectious smile. He will forever be loved and remembered by many. May God bless and keep you all.

With Much Love,

The Hodges Cromartie Family



FAMILY SENTIMENTS



Dear Sister Williamson and Family,

From the Heart Church Ministries of Raleigh family, Mrs. Rayner and I are saddened by the transition of Reverend Edward Williamson; however, we rejoice knowing that he is in the presence of the Lord.

In times like these, we often feel words are inadequate to fully express how much we care. Please know, however, that we indeed do care, and your loss is cause for us to feel your hurt. Please focus on the words of Jesus, and hear Him saying unto you, "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid." (John 14:27) Your Husband will be missed, but we know that he is in a better place.

*Please know that we as a Church family are praying for you and with you at this time. Our prayer is that you are comforted by God's love and strengthened by His presence through the Holy Spirit.
In His Service and Yours*

Walter Rayner Pastor



Dear friends and family,

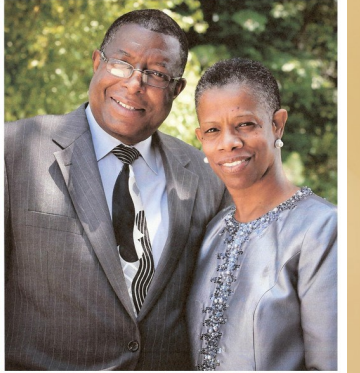
Today, we gather to celebrate the life of a remarkable man, Edward Williamson, who touched our lives in profound ways. Over the course of 40-some years, we were fortunate enough to share countless memories with him – from vacations filled with adventure, to Sunday mornings in church, and the warmth of shared meals and laughter in our homes.

Edward was more than a friend; he was family. He was a beacon of kindness, a pillar of strength, and a source of unwavering support. His infectious spirit and zest for life were a gift to us all. Edward had an incredible ability to find joy in even the smallest moments, and his laughter was a melody that brightened any room.

In our hearts, Edward's memory will forever be etched. His legacy lives on in the lessons he taught us - to cherish every moment, to love unconditionally, and to find humor in even the darkest times. Let us remember him not with sorrow but with gratitude for the privilege of having known such an extraordinary soul.

As we bid him farewell, let us carry his light forward and let his spirit continue to inspire us in our journey ahead. Rest in peace, dear friend.

With deepest condolences, Curtis and Dorothy Swafford





CONGREGATIONAL HYMN

Amazing Grace

*Amazing grace! How sweet the sound; that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found; was blind but now I see*

*'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear, the hour I first believed.*

*The Lord has promised good to me, His word my hope secures,
He will my shield and portion be, as long as life endures.*

*Through many dangers, toils and snares, I have already come, 'tis grace hath
brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.*

*When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun,
we've no less days to sing God's praise, than when we first begun.*



ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The family of Edward Williamson, Jr., acknowledges with deep appreciation every act of kindness and expression of love shown to us during our time of bereavement. May God richly bless you. We love you all.

FLOWER BEARERS

Janae Barbour, KaVon Burks, Jessica Byrd, Kevin Jordan, Tiras Jordan,
Jasmine Vaughn, Aliah Williams, Elijah Williamson, and Nilah Williamson

HONORARY FLOWER BEARERS

Malik Bowens, Kenneth Burks, Ava Cromartie, and Aimee Rowe