

*A Celebration of Life for*

*Father Charles L. Hoskins*

**SEPTEMBER 14, 1931 - JULY 24, 2025**

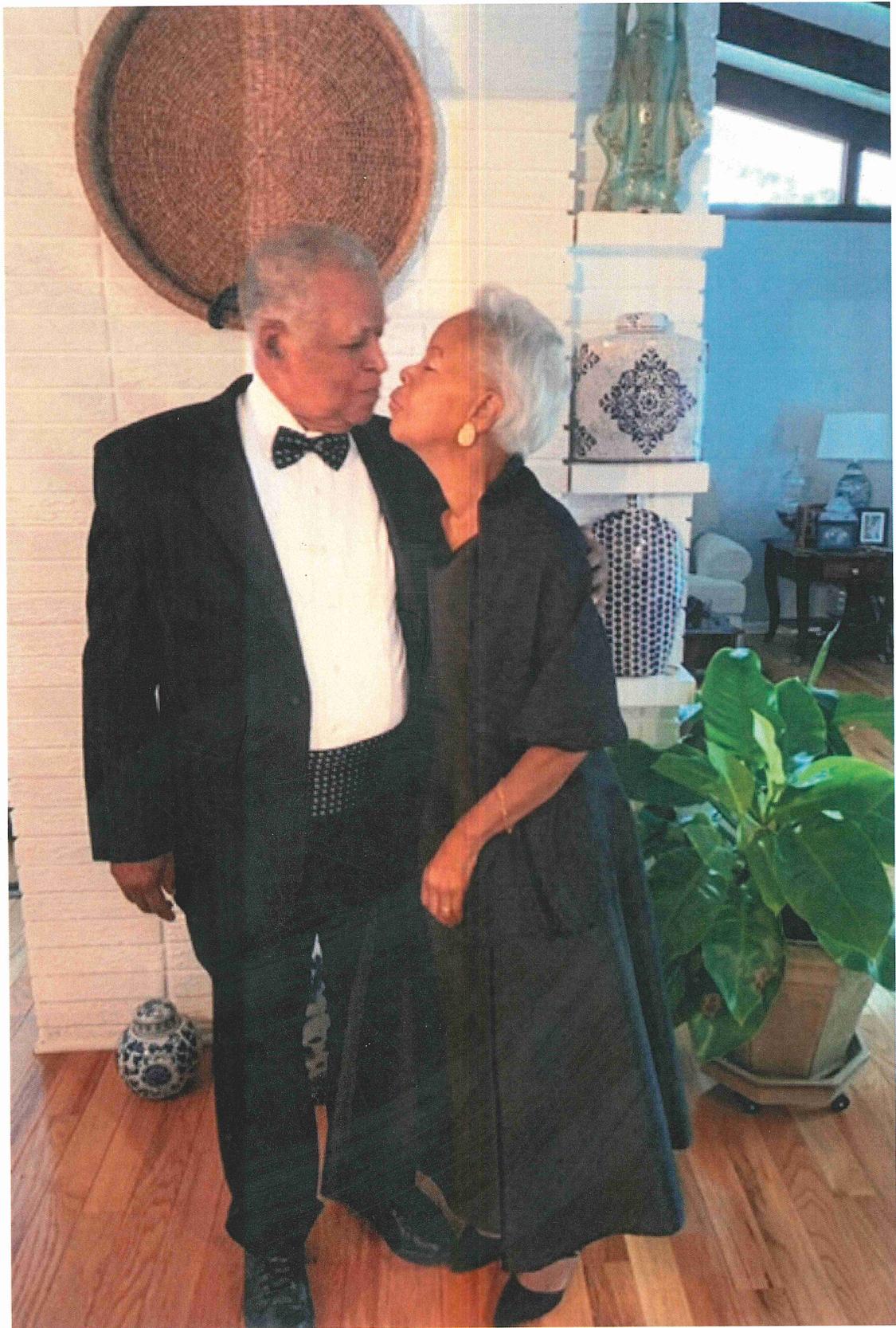
SATURDAY, AUGUST 2, 2025

AT 11:00AM

ST. MATTHEW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

1401 MARTIN LUTHER KING BLVD. SAVANNAH, GA 31415

Reverend DeWayne Cope, Officiant



## ORDER OF SERVICE

The Opening Anthem		BCP 491
The Collect of the Day		BCP 493
First Reading	Psalm 23	Tia Thomason
Second Reading	Revelation (7: 9-17)	Tyra Excellent
The Gospel	John (14: 1-6)	Rev. Guillermo Arboleda
Homily		Rev. Guillermo Arboleda
The Apostles' Creed		BCP 496
Prayers of the People		Margaret Anne Pearson
The Peace	(Please remain in pew and greet one another)	
Words of Comfort		Rev. DeWayne Cope
Give Me Jesus		Avis Glover
The Offertory	The Lord My God My Sheppard Is	LEV #663
Eucharistic Prayer A	BCP 361	Rev. DeWayne Cope
The Lord's Prayer		BCP 364
Communion of the People		
Communion Hymns:	Taste and see Let's Break Bread Together Sweet, Sweet Spirit	LEV #154 LEV #152 LEV #120
Post Communion Prayer (BCP 498)		Rev. DeWayne Cope
Reflections	(3 minutes, please)	
The Commendation	BCP 499	Rev. DeWayne Cope
The Blessing of the People		Rev. DeWayne Cope
The Dismissal		BCP 500
Recession	The Strife is Over	Hymn #208

# EULOGY

## Dr. Charles Hoskins

William Shakespeare in one of his seminal expressions, 'Twelfth Night', has stated inter alia (i.e., among other things), that some are born great, some achieve greatness, and some have greatness trust upon them.

My dearest brother, Dr. Charles Hoskins, had greatness trust upon him. He attended St. Mary's College in Trinidad, was encouraged to join the Catholic Monastery at Mt. St. Benedict, and was awarded a scholarship to attend the University of Rome.

There he excelled and was offered a scholarship to attempt a doctorate in Theology at the University. When he returned to Trinidad, he was denied the Vicarship at the Abbey, and sought refuge with the Episcopal Church in New Jersey.

In Savannah with his beloved Evalena, he fully expressed himself through writing and research. The search for expressing the truth of his thoughts was ecumenically fulfilled in Savannah. His natural compassion for mankind, his pastoral expectation, and his predilection for spreading the word of the Lord was all fulfilled right there in Savannah.

### **Written by, Dr. Trevor Hoskins**

P.S. Our Grandfather could only write an "X" for his signature. Our Mother could only sign her name. She gave birth to Thirteen (13) children: Ten (10) attended University, a few acheived Doctorates.

### **Read by, Trevor Hoskins**

## Letters of Devotion

Dear Daddy,

I never thought I would do life without you. Thank you for all the memories and unconditional love you have given me. Thank you for all the wisdom you shared over the years. I've learn so much about our history from you. Your compassion for people is unmatched and has been a huge influence on me. I love you dearly and will miss you tremendously. I will continue to make you proud. After all, I am a Hoskins.

Love always,

Cecille

Dear Papa Charles,

Thank you for all the amazing memories and beautiful lessons. Thank you for being an example of a God fearing man who cherished family and community. Thank you for always being content just watching my sister and I be kids. Thank you for teaching us what striving for excellence looked like. Thank you for every milestone you showed up and showed out. Thank you for embracing my better half and treating him like your own. Thank you for sharing your heart and wisdom with us. I will continue to excel in everything I do and make you proud. I will continue to celebrate both of our birthdays. I will continue to be the light you were to our family.

Love You Forever,

Tyra Nicole Excellent

Dear Papa Charles,

I couldn't tell you what I would miss doing the most with you. Going on our annual trip to CC's Pizza up until the time we told you we were too old to go back there; trying to figure how to use those silly gadgets (Which by the way came with directions in another language); or listening to your profound words of wisdom- "Those who are hungry will eat." I will always cherish all the memories we've made over the years. Thank you for your never ending love and support. You will be loved and missed very much.

Love,

Tia

## FATHER CHARLES L. HOSKINS

Father Charles Lwanga Hoskins was born in Port of Spain, Trinidad, the second of 13 children born to Mr. and Mrs. Clement Hoskins. He was educated on the island, and after college he studied for the ministry and was ordained a priest on January 6, 1961. The following year he was sent to Rome to pursue postgraduate studies. During those years, the Second Vatican Council was in session and began at the vortex of the catholic churches self study, that left an indelible mark on his theology. He spent summers in Holland, Spain, France, and England, where he studied in many English parishes. In 1966 he graduated "cum laude" with a doctorate in social sciences from St. Thomas, University, Rome, Italy and returned to Trinidad where he taught sociology at the Diocesan Seminary. Two years later, he came to America, worked in Harlem, New York, and later transferred to the Episcopal church, and eventually served as rector of Trinity Episcopal Church in Montclair, New Jersey. Coming from a predominantly West Indian Parish in Montclair, New Jersey, to St Mathews, Savannah, was somewhat a culture shock for him. But having lived in several countries, he soon found his Stride and thoroughly immersed himself in the history and lore of black Savannah.

He soon discovered that the official history of St. Mathews was somewhat "shaky" and in 1980, he wrote black Episcopalian in Georgia, Strife, Struggle and Salvation. That publication coincided with the celebration of the baptism of a black woman at Christ Church, Savannah, Georgia on July 7, 1750. That unknown woman was probably the first African-American baptized a Christian in Savannah. On July 7, 1980, Father Hoskins baptized ten children at Christ Church, using the same 1750 rite of baptism. Mary Platt, in a letter to the editor of the Savannah Morning News stated: "The clergymen along with the little ones to be baptized, and their families and friends were a moving reminder of the devout human beings, both black and white, who preceded us and of the oppressed who held in the faith against crushing odds. A testimony by black Episcopalians to the importance of this heritage is what I think the beautiful baptism service in Savannah's beloved Christ Church was all about. I wish everyone I know could have been there. "

In 1983, Father Hoskins was chair of a diocese committee on the election of the coadjutor Bishop of the diocese, and wrote and published " a status profile of the dioceses. " That same year, the woman of St Mathews hosted the annual meeting of the episcopal church women of the diocese, and father Hoskins wrote black Episcopalians in Savannah. Each participant and family in the congregation received a free copy of the book. Tom Coffey in a review of the book recorded the fact that the author claimed that under Bishop Stewart "the role of the black Episcopalians changed from that of troublesome presence "for the episcopal church in Georgia to being part of the family. "Having been a member of the NAACP, he soon affiliated himself with the local branch and within months, "strong-armed "by Curtis Cooper And Madeleine Thomas. He found himself on the education committee of the branch. For the next 20 years, he served as chairman of the education committee, and attended hundreds of board meetings, attempting to guarantee the objectives of the reverend S. Scott Stell's civil action No. 1316 against the Savannah/Chatham Board of Public Education.

The Mu Phi Chapter Omega Psi Phi Fraternity honored Father Hoskins as Omega Citizen of 1986, for his "outstanding leadership in civic and educational endeavors in the local community." That same year Father Hoskins presented a paper at an NAACP Citizens Task Force meeting on black on black crime in Savannah, entitled "Walk Together, Children, Don't You Get Weary." Some years later, he read a paper, entitled, Some Missing Pages of the Afro-American Experience in Savannah, during the annual meeting of the Georgia Historical Society in Savannah.

After 21 years and three months as Rector of Saint Matthews Episcopal Church, Father Charles Hoskins retired his position in 1996. During his tenure 225 persons were baptized, 170 presented for confirmation, 146 buried and 50 couples were married. One "Son and One Daughter" of the congregation were ordained Episcopal priests. The coffee hour was introduced after service, new pews were installed, and the windows of the church were replaced by stained glass windows. Mrs. Susan Waters, a member of the church designed the windows. The daycare, started by Father Nevels, was increased and now educates about 50 kids. The services were broadcast live twice each month. The Toomer/Walker hall costing more than \$300,000 was added to the facility. For many years, the women of the church sponsored the Rockaway Review from New York. The church participated in the food source program and sponsored an 11 member Somali family enabling them to reestablish their roots in America. At a retirement gala, held at the officers club at Hunter, Doctor Clementine, Washington, roasted Father Hoskins and Mayor Floyd Adams issued a proclamation to mark the occasion. Superintendent Dr. Patrick Russo, Bishop Henry Louttit and the Reverend George Maxwell of Christ Church gave remarks.

Father Hoskins leaves to cherish his memory a loving wife, Evalena, and daughters, Valeria Hoskins, Kiva Brophy (Bill), Cecille Thomason, two granddaughters, Tyra Excellent (Luc), Tia Thomason. Siblings: Clement, Kelvin, Ernest, Lennox, Erea, Dr. Kwame Nantambu, Dr. Trevor Hoskins, Yvette, Anthony and Jonh Hoskins, sister in-law's, Melrose Sams (Edward) (d), Kay Francis, Betty Brown (Billy) and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and friends. He was preceeded in death by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Clement Hoskins, a son, Mark Hoskins, and siblings, Yolande and Selwyn, sister in-law, Rosemary Bell (Alex).

