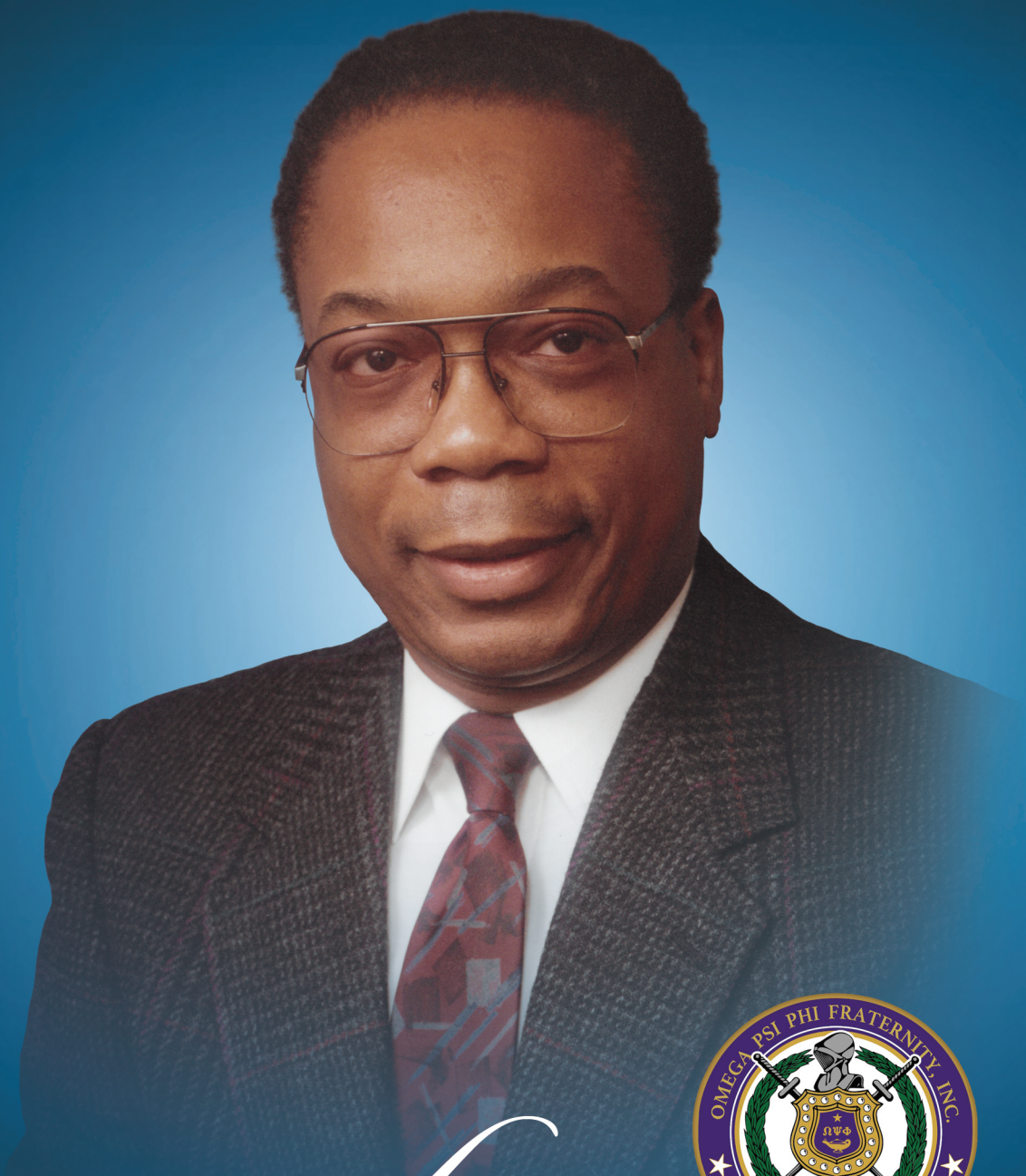
A Celebration

OF A LIFE WELL LIVED



Leroy

EMMANUEL STIFF, M.D.

February 27, 1944 ~ March 17, 2021



Viewing

FRIDAY, MARCH 26, 2021
11:00 AM to 6:00 PM

Cooke Bros.
FUNERAL CHAPEL AND CREMATORY
1601 27th Street
Newport News, Virginia 23607

Private Funeral Service

SATURDAY, MARCH 27, 2021 | 12:00 PM

SAINT CYPRIAN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
1242 W. Queen Street
Hampton, Virginia 23669

THE VERY REVEREND
DR. RONALD E. RAMSEY, RECTOR







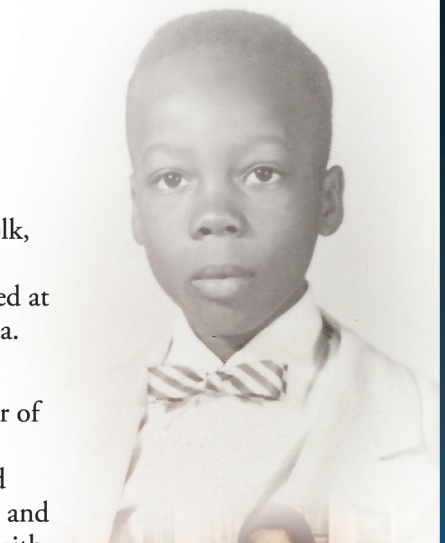






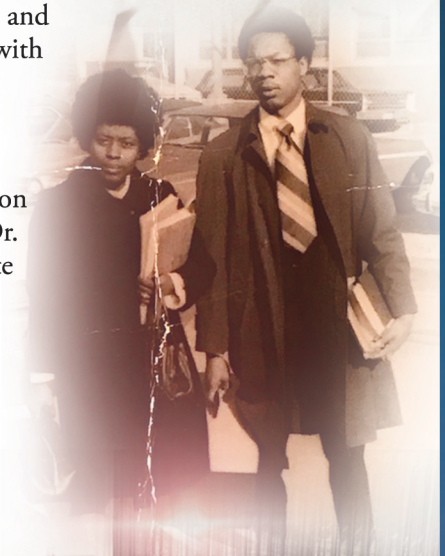


Leroy Emmanuel Stiff, M.D.
A LIFE WELL LIVED



On February 27, 1944, Leroy E. Stiff was born to Walter and Rena Juanita Stiff in Norfolk, Virginia. He was the first of three children. His mother and grandparents, Lillian and Herbert Davis, reared him with love and instilled in him Christian values. He was baptized at an early age and was a young member of the Grace Episcopal Church in Norfolk, Virginia.

Leroy attended the public schools of Norfolk and graduated from Booker T. Washington High School in 1961. He attended Norfolk State University, where he received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Chemistry in 1965. He then attended Howard University where he studied Biochemistry while working at the National Institutes of Health. Leroy graduated from Howard University College of Medicine in 1971. Dr. Stiff completed his Obstetrics and Gynecology Residency at Howard University Hospital in 1975 and moved to Hampton with his wife, Dr. Minnie Stiff, and their children. Both Dr. Stiffs started a private practice in Hampton. Together, Leroy and Minnie worked and served the community with skill and compassion.



Over the years, Dr. Stiff was on staff at Newport News General Hospital, Sentara Hampton General Hospital, Riverside Regional Medical Center, and Mary Immaculate Hospital. Dr. Stiff retired from private practice in 2013 but continued to work at the Peninsula Institute For Community Health, and at Southampton Memorial Hospital in Franklin, Virginia.

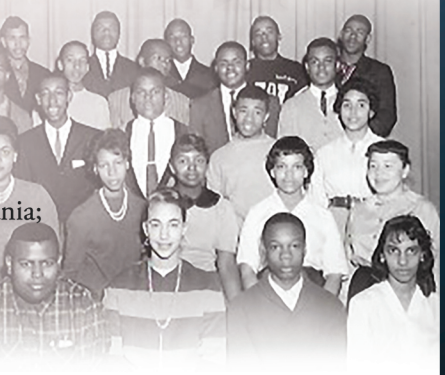
Dr. Stiff's jovial nature and warm temperament matched his medical expertise and professionalism. Everywhere that Dr. Stiff would go in the Hampton Roads area, one or more women would recognize him and remark that he took care of them and delivered their children.

Leroy met Minnie Z. Artis at the bus stop on the Norfolk State campus the first week of college. Their meeting was the beginning of a sixty-year relationship based on love and respect. They were united in holy matrimony on June 18, 1967. Leroy and Minnie were blessed with and reared three children, Leslie, Bertram and Brandon. Their love story exemplifies 1 Corinthians 13: a love that is patient, kind, not envious, nor boastful, that endures and rejoices in the truth. Their love produced a legacy that will live indefinitely through their children and grandchildren and their service to the Hampton Roads community.



Dr. Stiff held memberships in many professional and social organizations, including the National Medical Association, the American Medical Association, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, the Virginia Medical Society, the Old Dominion Medical Society, and the Hampton Medical Society. He was also a member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity and a local investment club.

A dedicated Christian and devoted member of St. Cyprian's Episcopal Church in Hampton, Virginia, Dr. Stiff served faithfully as a Vestry member and was an active participant in the Men's ministry. Christmas was his favorite celebration. He filled his home with many beautiful trees and tributes to Christ's birth and could be found with brown paint and a brush to make sure the angels reflected his ancestors.



Leroy E. Stiff departed this life on March 17, 2021. His parents, aunts Catherine and Lucinda, sister Delores, and brother Herbert predeceased him. His remarkable life will forever be cherished by so many, including his wife of 53 years, Dr. Minnie Stiff of Hampton, Virginia; his three children, Dr. Leslie Jones *(Theodore)* of Lorton, Virginia; Dr. Bertram Stiff of Bowie, Maryland; Brandon Stiff *(Rashanda)* of Pennsburg, Pennsylvania; and six grandchildren, Olivia Z. Jones, Sydney I. Jones, Theodore H. Jones III of Lorton, Virginia; Jonathan M. Stiff of Bowie Maryland; and Charlie R. Stiff and Lillian M. Stiff of Pennsburg, Pennsylvania, and countless extended family, friends, and loved ones.

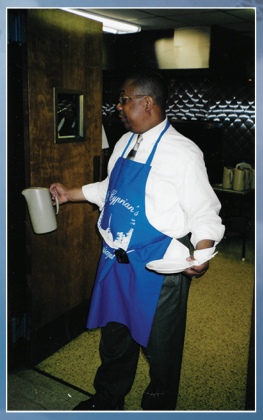












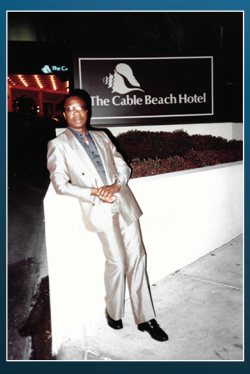











The Cable Beach Hotel




The Cabl



BURIAL OF THE DEAD: RITE TWO

The family may remain seated throughout the service.

INSTRUMENTAL PRELUDE

PROCESSIONAL . . . . . BCP p. 491

I am Resurrection and I am Life, says the Lord. Whoever has faith in me shall have life, even though he die. And everyone who has life, and has committed himself to me in faith, shall not die for ever.

As for me, I know that my Redeemer lives and that at the last he will stand upon the earth.
After my awaking, he will raise me up; and in my body I shall see God. I myself shall see, and my eyes behold him who is my friend and not a stranger.

For none of us has life in himself, and none becomes his own master when he dies.
For if we have life, we are alive in the Lord, and if we die, we die in the Lord.
So, then, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's possession.

Happy from now on are those who die in the Lord! So it is, says the Spirit,
for they rest from their labors.

The Celebrant then says

The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

O God, who by the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ destroyed death, and brought life and immortality to light: Grant that your servant *Leroy*, being raised with him, may know the strength of his presence, and rejoice in his eternal glory; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. ***Amen.***

THE OLD TESTAMENT READING: Ecclesiastes 3:1-14

3 For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: 2 a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted; 3 a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up;4 a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; 5 a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; 6 a time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to throw away;7 a time to tear, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;8 a time to love, and a time to hate;a time for war, and a time for peace. 9 What gain have the workers from their toil? 10 I have seen the business that God has given to everyone to be busy with. 11 He has made everything suitable for its time; moreover he has put a sense of past and future into their minds, yet they cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end. 12 I know that there is nothing better for them than to be happy and enjoy themselves as long as they live; 13 moreover, it is God's gift that all should eat and drink and take pleasure in all their toil. 14 I know that whatever God does endures forever; nothing can be added to it, nor anything taken from it; God has done this, so that all should stand in awe before him. (NRSV)

PSALM 23

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. 2 He maketh me lie down in green pastures; he leadeth me beside still waters; 3 he restoreth my soul. He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. 4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff—they comfort me. 5 Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies; Thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. 6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever. (KJV)

THE NEW TESTAMENT READING: Revelation 7: 9-17

9 After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. 10 They cried out in a loud voice, saying,"Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!" 11 And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, 12 singing, "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen."13 Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?" 14 I said to him, "Sir, you are the one that knows." Then he said to me, "These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.15 For this reason they are before the throne of God, and worship him day and night within his temple, and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them.16 They will hunger no more, and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat;7 for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes." (NRSV)

REFLECTIONS . . . . . Rashanda Stiff

THE HOLY GOSPEL: John 1:21-27

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

21 Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. 22 But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." 23 Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." 24 Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." 25 Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, 26 and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" 27 She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world."

The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

THE HOMILY . . . . . The Rector

THE APOSTLES' CREED . . . . . BCP p. 496

In the assurance of eternal life given at Baptism, let us proclaim our faith and say,

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. *Amen*.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

For our brother *Leroy*, let us pray to our Lord Jesus Christ who said, "I am Resurrection and I am Life."

Lord, you consoled Martha and Mary in their distress; draw near to us who mourn for *Leroy*, and dry the tears of those who weep.
Hear us, Lord.

You wept at the grave of Lazarus, your friend; comfort us in our sorrow.
Hear us, Lord.

You raised the dead to life; give to our brother *Leroy* eternal life.
Hear us, Lord.

You promised paradise to the thief who repented; bring our brother *Leroy* to the joys of heaven.
Hear us, Lord.

Our brother was washed in Baptism and anointed with the Holy Spirit; give him fellowship with all your saints.
Hear us, Lord.

He was nourished with your Body and Blood; grant him a place at the table in your heavenly kingdom.
Hear us, Lord.

Comfort us in our sorrows at the death of our brother; let our faith be our consolation, and eternal life our hope.

Silence may be kept.

The Celebrant concludes with:
Lord Jesus Christ, we commend to you our brother, *Leroy*, who was reborn by water and the Spirit in Holy Baptism. Grant that his death may recall to us your victory over death, and be on occasion for us to renew our trust in your Father's love. Give us, we pray, the faith to follow where you have led the way; and where you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, to the ages. ***Amen.***

THE PEACE

Priest The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

THE OFFERTORY SENTENCE

THE OFFERTORY SELECTION ~Solo

The Center of My Joy . . . . . .Richard Smallwood . . . . . Mary T. Jackson

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Eucharistic Prayer B . . . . . **BCP p. 367**

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, through Jesus Christ our Lord; who rose victorious from the dead, and comforts us with the blessed hope of everlasting life. For to your faithful people, O Lord, life is changed, not ended; and when our mortal body lies in death, there is prepared for us a dwelling place eternal in the heavens.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Celebrant and People ~ (The Sanctus) . . . . . **BCP p. 362**

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

The people stand or kneel.

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People

We remember his death,

We proclaim his resurrection,

We await his coming in glory;

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with Cyprian and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN**.

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

THE LORD'S PRAYER . . . . . BCP P. 364

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. *Amen*.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

A period of silence is kept.

Celebrant: Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People: Therefore let us keep the feast.

THE FRACTION ANTHEM

Celebrant and People

"O Lamb of God "

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: grant us peace.

Read Silently

(A "spiritual communion" is a personal devotional that anyone can pray at any time to express their desire to receive Holy Communion at that moment, but in which circumstances impede them from actually receiving Holy Communion.)

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Celebrant and People

A PRAYER FOR SPIRTUAL COMMUNION

My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. I love you above all things, and long for you in my soul. Since I cannot receive you in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, come spiritually into my heart. Cleanse and strengthen me with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let me never be separated from you. May I live in you, and you in me, in this life and in the life to come. Amen.

A time of silent meditation with music.

THE POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

Almighty God, we thank you that in your great love you have fed us with the spiritual food and drink of the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ, and have given us a foretaste of your heavenly banquet. Grant that this Sacrament may be to us a comfort in affliction, and a pledge of our inheritance in that kingdom where there is no death, neither sorrow nor crying, but the fullness of joy with all your saints; through Jesus Christ our Savior. ***Amen***.

THE COMMENDATION

Give rest, O Christ, to your servant with your saints, *where sorrow and pain are no more, neither sighing, but life everlasting*. You only are immortal, the creator and maker of mankind; and we are mortal, formed of the earth, and to earth shall we return. For so did you ordain when you created me, saying, "You are dust, and to dust you shall return." All of us go down to the dust; yet even at the grave we make our song: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Give rest, O Christ, to your servant with your saints, *where sorrow and pain are no more, neither sighing, but life everlasting.*

Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant, Leroy. Acknowledge, we humbly beseech you, a sheep of your own fold, a lamb of your flock, a sinner of your own redeeming. Receive him into the arms of your mercy, into the blessed rest of everlasting peace, and into glorious company the saints in light. ***Amen.***

THE BLESSING

THE DISMISSAL

Priest: Let us go forth in the name of Christ

People: Thanks be to God.

Instrumental Recessional

ENTOMBMENT AT HAMPTON MEMORIAL GARDEN

155 Butler Farm Road | Hampton, Virginia 23666

THE COMMITTAL . . . . . BCP p. 501

Everyone the Father gives to me will come to me;
I will never turn away anyone who believes in me.

He who raised Jesus Christ from the dead
will also give new life to our mortal bodies
through his indwelling Spirit.

My heart, therefore, is glad, and my spirit rejoices;
my body also shall rest in hope.

You will show me the path of life;
in your presence there is fullness of joy,
and in your right hand are pleasures for evermore.

In sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life
through our Lord Jesus Christ, we commend to Almighty
God our *brother Leroy*, and we commit *his* body to its resting place;
earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust. The Lord bless
him and keep *him*, the Lord make his face to shine upon *him*
and be gracious to *him*, the Lord lift up his countenance upon
him and give him peace. ***Amen***.

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. *Amen*.

Rest eternal grant to him, O Lord; *And let light perpetual shine upon him.*

May his soul, and the souls of all the departed,
through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

The Celebrant dismisses the people with these words

The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the eternal covenant: Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight; through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. ***Amen***.

HONORARY PALLBEARERS

Sam Anderson, Ph.D. / Leo Bowers, M.D. / Mark Clark, M.D. / James Colson, Ph.D.
David Felder, M.D. / Melvin Johnson, M.D. / Odell McCants, M.D. / McKinley Price D.D.S.
Eugene Ponton / Charley Roberts Ph.D.

PARTICIPANTS IN THE SERVICE

The Very Reverend Dr. Ronald E. Ramsey, Celebrant
Phyllis Holland-James, Organist | Mary T. Jackson, Soloist
RaShanda Stiff, Reflections | The Family Readers

BISHOP

The Rt. Rev. Susan B. Haynes

RECTOR

The Very Rev. Dr. Ronald E. Ramsey

DEACON-IN-RESIDENCE

The Rev. Earl R. Christian

THE STAFF

Phyllis Holland-James, Director of Music Ministries
Bettie J. Swain, Parish Administrator
Timothy Goddard, Sexton

THE VESTRY

(Meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month @ 7 p.m.)
Juanita Alexander (2022), Junior Warden
Mark Farquharson (2021) | Henry P. Russell (2021)
Brenda K. Vinson (2021) | Fannie J. Walls (2022)
Maria Watkins (2021), Register | Clayton Winston (2023)

Mark Farquharson, *Webmaster/Audio Visual Technician*

TREASURER

Jerome Sheppard

TRUSTEES

Sylvester Newsome | L.C. Wyatt | Stanley Carnegie

Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 65, Hampton, Virginia 23669-0065
Phone: 757-723-8253
Office@stcyprianshamptonva.org

Saint Cyprian's Church is named after Cyprian, the first Bishop of Carthage, North Africa (248-258). He spoke for reconciliation of the Church with those who had denied their faith. Cyprian was beheaded for refusing to worship pagan gods and deny Christianity. Thus, he became a martyr of Christ's Church universal.




























GRAD!


NSBE



















Acknowledgements

The family wishes to extend sincere thanks and appreciation to all family, friends, and especially The Very Rev. Dr. Ronald Ramsey and St. Cyprian's Episcopal Church; Dr. Concepcion Aspili; the staff at Sentara CarePlex Hospital; Dr. Leo and Leslie Bowers; Yvonne, LaToya and Herbert Artis; Ted Jones; RaShanda Stiff; and Esther and Priscilla Wiggins, for their continued love, help, and support.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to L & M Stiff Scholarship fund at Norfolk State University and Howard University School of Medicine.



SERVICES ENTRUSTED TO:

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Newport News, Virginia 23607
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