

The Service and Celebration
In Memory of
Richard Allen Leonard, Sr.
1923 - 1998



Presiding Elder, Richard Allen Leonard, Sr., B.A., M.S., B.D., D.D.

AT
Greater St. Luke African Methodist Episcopal Church
78 Gordon Street
CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA

Saturday Morning, September 26, 1998

At 10:00 O'clock

The Reverend L. T. Baker, *Pastor*
The Reverend Dr. Alonzo Middleton, *Worship Leader*
The Right Reverend John Hurst Adams, *Eulogist*
Presiding Prelate, Seventh Episcopal District A.M.E. Church

Entombment
LIVE OAK MEMORIAL GARDENS
Highway 61
Charleston, South Carolina

The Obituary

"Blessed is the man who makes the Lord his truth . . ." Pslams 40:4

RICHARD ALLEN LEONARD, SR., was born June 23, 1923, in Marion County, South Carolina, to the late Reverend James and Connie Davis Leonard. On September 23, 1998, his life was ordered to a higher realm.

He received his early Christian training and nuturing at Saint James A.M.E. Church in Marion County.

He graduated from Marion County Training School in 1943. Shortly thereafter, he entered into the United States Marine Corps, where he received an honorable discharge in 1946.

After completing his tour of duty, he enrolled in Clafin College, Orangeburg, South Carolina, and received a B.A. Degree. While at Clafin, he became a member of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. It was at this time he met and became engaged to the lovely Sarah Coger of St. George, South Carolina. They were joined in holy matrimony in December, 1951. To this union two children were born, Dianne Lorraine and Richard Allen, II.

Reverend Leonard aspired to the ministry at an early age, which led him to Gammon Theological Seminary in September, 1949. He graduated in 1952 with a Bachelor of Divinity degree. In 1962, he earned a Master of Science degree from South Carolina State College, Orangeburg, South Carolina. In 1975, the Doctor of Divinity degree was conferred upon him by Allen University.

Reverend Leonard was ordained an Itinerant Elder in the African Methodist Episcopal Church in 1952 and received his first appointment to Beard Chapel A.M.E. Church, Charleston, South Carolina that same year. Other pastoral charges include Shiloh A.M.E., Charleston, S.C. (18 years), and Greater St. Luke A.M.E. Church, Charleston, S.C. (7 years). In 1971, he was appointed Presiding Elder of the Edisto District in the South Carolina Annual Conference. He was appointed Presiding Elder of the Kingstree District, Palmetto Annual Conference in 1988 and served faithfully until his death.

Reverend Leonard was a member of the 1968, 1976, 1980, 1984, 1988, 1992, and 1996 General Conferences. He served on the General Board of the A.M.E. Church from 1976 - 1980. He served on the Episcopal Committee of the A.M.E. Church for the 1984 and 1992 Quadrenniums. He was a delegate to the World Conference on Methodism in 1981, 1986, 1991, and 1996.

His community involvements include the Colleton and Charleston counties Democratic Party, Past Master of Sunlight Lodge No. 221, George Washington Carver Consistory No. 162, life member of the NAACP, and associate life member of NCNW and second vice president of the S.C. First Congressional District Black Caucas.

At the time of his demise, Rev. Leonard was serving as a Council Member of the World Methodist Council, a Trustee Board Member of Allen University in Columbia, S.C., and Treasurer of the Reid House of Christian Service in Charleston.

Reverend Leonard was an educator in the public schools of Colleton County from 1952 to 1980. He retired as principal of Ruffin High School. While at Ruffin High, he was cited by both Ebony Magazine and the Education Testing Service of Atlanta, Georgia for his contributions to the intergration of the public schools. He was the first president of the intergrated Colleton County Education Association and chaired the Ethics Committee of the Palmetto Teachers Association. In 1979, he received the Colleton County Outstanding Educator's Award.

Reverend Leonard was a quiet, soft spoken and dignified man. As a presiding elder he was full of innovative ideas and programs for his districts. He was committed and dedicated to those he served. His visionary leadership has left an indelible imprint on the lives of many throughout the African Methodist Episcopal Church. His motto was: "I live so that I will be ready to die"

Reverend Leonard's life-living left beautiful memories that will always be cherished and treasured by his devoted wife, Sarah; their two children, Dianne Lorraine of Greenville, S.C., Richard Allen, II (Pamela) of Rock Hill, S.C., two grandchildren, Richard Allen, III and Alyson Nicole; three sisters, Nadene Evans and Marie Leonard both of Marion, and Lena Tarpley of Oakdale, Louisiana; (his twin sister Sarah who preceded him in death) and one brother, Rev. Romeo Leonard of Columbia; seven sisters-in-law; four brothers-in-law, nieces, nephews and a host of other relatives and friends.

The Order of Service

REVEREND DR. ALONZO MIDDLETON
Presiding

ORGAN MEDLEY Organist

THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN NO. 321— "Jesus Keep Me Near The Cross"

HYMN OF PRAISE NO. 242— "A Charge To Keep I Have"

INVOCATION Reverend George W. Brown

THE CHORAL CHANT Greater St. Luke Choir

SELECTION Greater St. Luke Choir

THE SACRED WORD
The Old Testament—The 90th Psalm Reverend John Gillison
The Epistle—II Timothy 4:5-8 Reverend John Randolph
The Gospel—Matthew 24:36-44 Reverend Levern Stevenson

THE GLORIA PATRI Greater St. Luke Choir

REFLECTIONS:
Class Leader Brother John Alexander, Class No. 36-A
Pastoral Tribute Reverend Remus Harper, Jr.
Presiding Elders' Council Reverend Alonzo Middleton
Palmetto Annual Conference Reverend L. M. Seward
Kingstree District Reverend Thomas Myers

SOLO Mrs. Delores S. Jenkins

REFLECTIONS:
General Officer Reverend Dr. Alonzo W. Holman
Physician and Friend Dr. Alan Rashford
Family Ms. Dianne L. Leonard

MEDLEY OF MUSIC Mrs. Carolyn S. Brown

MEDITATION HYMN Reverend L. T. Baker
Hymn No. 450— "Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine"

THE EULOGY Bishop John Hurst Adams
*Senior Bishop, African Methodist Episcopal Church
Presiding Bishop of the Seventh Episcopal District*

"THE LORD'S PRAYER" (Chanted)

THE CELEBRATION Reverend James Glisson
Hymn No. 551— "When We All Get To Heaven"

THE RECESSIONAL— "Flee As A Bird"

To My Husband With Love For So Many Reasons

*By sharing my dreams
you made so many of them
come true . . .*

*By sharing my problems,
you helped me
to face them with confidence . . .*

*By sharing my life,
you made it
so much richer and more meaningful
than I could ever have made it
on my own . . .*

*By sharing my love,
you filled my heart with happiness . . .*

*Thank you for being
that one special man
in my life—
my husband, my friend, my love.*

Your loving wife,
Sarah

Quiet Place

*I begin and end each day with God
What pleasure it does bring.
My heart is filled with happiness
Lord, I have everything.*

*I love the quiet peace of prayer
God gives me through the day,
And in everything I do
I want this peace to stay.*

*God is peace and love and hope,
I feel these everywhere.
I walk with God's hand in mine,
And never know a care.*

—Isabel Smith

Servise of Committal

Reverend R. L. McCants, Reverend M. W. Singleton,
Reverend G. T. Delvin,
Reverend W. J. Baxter, Reverend Charles Singleton,
Reverend Dr. Charles E. Young,
Reverend Dr. William Swinton, Jr., Reverend Samuel Myers
and Reverend Clyde Corbin

Active Pallbearers

Reverend Jerome Wilson
Reverend Samuel Davis
Reverend Clifford Levine
Reverend Larry Stevens
Reverend Glannie Tisdale
Reverend Franklin Scott
Reverend Jacob Smith
Reverend Franklin Fulmore

Honorary Pallbearers

The Presiding Elders' Council

Active Floral Bearers

Ushers of Greater St. Luke A.M.E. Church
And

The Palmetto Conference Women's Missionary Society

And

The Palmetto Conference Ministers' Wives and Widows Alliance

Honorary Floral Bearers

Seventh Episcopal District Woman's Missionary Society

And

Seventh Episcopal District Ministers' Wives and Widows Alliance

Acknowledgements

*The family is most grateful to all its friends
for the numerous acts of kindness and prayers
expressed during its bereavement.*

Arrangements By
FIELDING HOME FOR FUNERALS
122 Logan Street
Charleston, South Carolina 29401
(843) 722-3348