

A Memorial Service
Celebrating the Life and Ministry
of
The Reverend Dr. James Bradford Humphrey, II
A.B., B.D., M.D., D.D.



Thursday, June 17, 1993
11:00 a.m.

First Baptist Church - West
1801 Oaklawn Avenue
Charlotte, North Carolina

Dr. Herman Thomas, Associate Minister - Presiding

Obituary

The Reverend Dr. James Bradford Humphrey, II (J.B.), son of the late Reverend J. B. and Maggie Donnie Gaddy Humphrey, was a native of Lumberton, North Carolina. He joined his heavenly father early on Saturday, June 12, 1993.

In preparation for his great mission, he graduated Salutatorian from Red Stone Academy, Lumberton, North Carolina and completed studies at Shaw University, and Shaw University School of Divinity, Raleigh, North Carolina earning his Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Divinity, Master of Divinity, and Doctor of Divinity degrees. He continued his studies at Princeton University, Princeton, New Jersey and Union Theological Seminary, New York City.

He was united in holy matrimony to Mary Elizabeth Pridgeon of Nash County on June 27, 1946. One daughter and one son were born of this union.

Dr. Humphrey was a minister, teacher, educator, and counselor. The son of an itinerant preacher, he was called to the ministry at the early age of seventeen. Completing his studies at Shaw University, he accepted the call to pastor at the First Baptist Church in Trinity, North Carolina. He served as minister of Mt. Moriah Baptist Church, in Mebane, North Carolina, and Spring Garden Baptist Church in Washington, North Carolina where he also taught in the public school system. In 1946, he accepted the pastorate of First Baptist Church-West and served there for forty-seven years.

As an educator, he co-authored "Manual For Ushers." He was an instructor in the Shaw University Extension School and the Department of Christian Education, General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, Inc.

Dr. Humphrey's religious affiliations included: Past President of the 450,000 member General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, Inc., member of the Trustee Board of Shaw University, member of the Trustee Board of Shaw University Divinity School, and North Carolina State President of the National Baptist Convention, Inc. For 16 years, he served as Moderator of the Mecklenburg General Baptist Association. He was President of the Charlotte Federation of Churches, President of the Baptist Interracial Commission, President of the Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance, and Vice-President of the Charlotte Area Clergy Association. Dr. Humphrey was a member of the Lott Carey Foreign Mission Convention Executive Board, the Family Life Council of the National Baptist Convention, Inc., the North Carolina Council of Churches, and the World Baptist Alliance.

His civic and social affiliations included: Past President of the Charlotte NAACP, Chairman of a Division of the Boy Scouts of America, Vice-Chairman of the Board of Directors McCrorey YMCA, Vice-President of the Opportunity Industrialization Center, President of the Charlotte Frontier Association, and Co-Chairperson of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Commission of North Carolina. He was actively involved with the Charlotte Community Health Association, Christian Rehabilitation Center, Mental Health Association, and the Council on Aging.

Dr. Humphrey's civic and ministerial leadership and accomplishments have been recognized over the years. He has been bestowed the state's highest honors, receiving the Order of The Long Leaf Pine of North Carolina both in 1987 and 1993, and Citizen of the Year Award in 1993. He has been recognized by Las Amigas for Outstanding Service in Religion. He was inducted into the Charlotte Mecklenburg Chapter of the NAACP Hall of Fame and received the Distinguished Alumni Award from Shaw University. He has received numerous letters, certificates and plaques of recognition. May 28, 1993 was designated as Dr. J. B. Humphrey Day by the Mecklenburg County Board of Commissioners.

Notably, Dr. Humphrey has been a staunch supporter of his alma mater, Shaw University, leading the successful fund raising effort which allowed the institution's doors to remain open. He led activities securing the employment of Charlotte's first African-American bus drivers. To First Baptist Church West, he brought not only his gifts of preaching and teaching, but also an unusual skill in church organization and administration. Under his leadership, a new church was erected and the mortgage was liquidated within nine years.

Dr. J. B. Humphrey has been a dedicated husband, father, grandfather, brother, brother-in-law, uncle, minister, counselor, citizen, friend, and minister of ministers. He truly embodied the spirit.

Celebrating his life are his wife, Mary Elizabeth Pridgeon Humphrey; one daughter, Mary Louise Humphrey Kendrick; one son, James Bradford Humphrey, III, a daughter (in-law), Jean Stowe Humphrey; three brothers, George Humphrey, Bronx, New York; L. Knox Humphrey, Lumberton, North Carolina, and Raymond Humphrey, Beltsville Maryland; three grandsons, Donald Lamont Kendrick, James Bradford Humphrey, IV, John Wesley Humphrey; one granddaughter, Jessica Kathleen Humphrey; six brothers-in-law, six sisters-in-law, twelve nephews, six nieces, and a host of grandnephews, grandnieces, other relatives, friends and a devoted congregation.