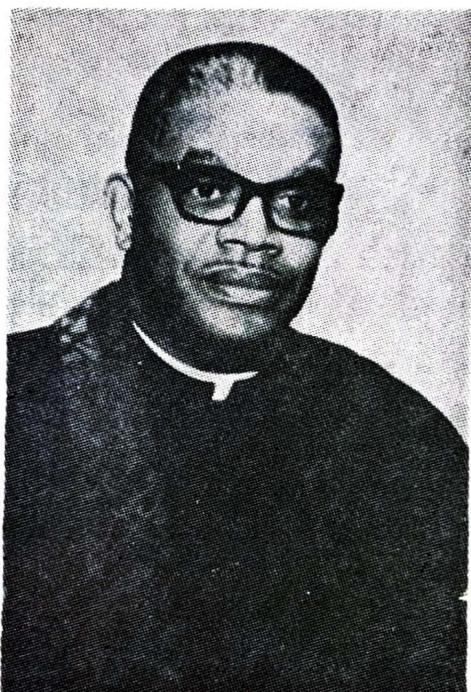


*Service In Memoriam*



*Bishop John Douglas Bright, Sr., D.D., LL.D.*

FRIDAY, JULY 7, 1972 — TWELVE NOON

MOTHER BETHEL  
AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
Sixth Street below Pine  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

The Rt. Reverend Ernest L. Hickman, *Presiding Bishop*  
The Reverend A. McNeil White, *Presiding Elder*  
The Reverend Joseph L. Joiner, *Pastor*

## Obituary

BISHOP JOHN DOUGLAS BRIGHT, SR., The Seventy-ninth Bishop of the African Methodist Episcopal Church was born in Americus, Georgia on October 10, 1917 to Turner and Estella Bright, devout Christians.

He departed this life July 2, 1972 in Dallas, Texas. At an early age he was converted and joined Campbell Chapel A. M. E. Church in Americus.

"He has been preaching all his life." He attended McKay Hill Elementary School in Americus and continued his training in New York City where he was ordained at age 19 before entering Wilberforce University and Payne Theological Seminary in Wilberforce, Ohio.

He was married to Vida Mae Harris on July 30, 1942 by the late Bishop Reverdy Cassius Ransom. To this union was born two children, John D. Jr., and Gwendolyn Necia.

Honorary degrees conferred to him by—

Daniel Payne College, Birmingham, Alabama; Allen University, Columbia, South Carolina and Wilberforce, his Alma Mater.

He pastored churches in Ohio and Pennsylvania. In Philadelphia, he served at Allen A. M. E. Church before beginning a ten year pastorate at Mother Bethel. During the General Conference of May, 1960, in Los Angeles, California, he was elected and consecrated a Bishop.

His first assignment was to the Seventeenth Episcopal District in Central Africa, where he and his family lived and served. From there he was assigned to The Twelfth Episcopal District. Eight years ago he was assigned to The First Episcopal District. Under his inspired leadership, this District became engaged in a massive program of Church Expansion and Community Involvement.

His Affiliations Include—

The World Council Of Churches, World Methodist Council, The National Council Of Churches, President Of The National Committee Of Black Churchmen, Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, The Masonic Lodge, The Elks, Life Member of N. A. A. C. P., President Of The Council Of Bishops, 1970, Member Of The President's Special Advisory Council, United States Senate Committee On The Aging And Aged, served as only Black Chaplain, Boy Scout World Jamboree In Tokyo, Japan, August, 1971, named by Ebony Magazine as one of the 100 Most Influential Black Men In America in 1971 and again in 1972.

He has been the recipient of many citations and honors.

Among the happiest moments of Bishop Bright's life were the graduations from college of his two children, John Douglas, Jr., who has been called to the Ministry and Gwendolyn who plans to become a lawyer. He is survived by his devoted wife, Vida;

a son, John Jr.; a daughter, Gwendolyn Necia, two brothers, Thomas of Philadelphia and James of Mobile, Alabama; a sister, Ethel Mae Dillon of Brooklyn, New York, a host of relatives, Godchildren, friends and a saddened District.

Paraphrase—

.... To God I go to make my peace,  
Where black nor white can follow to betray.  
My pent-up heart to Him I will release  
And surely He will show the perfect way of life.  
For He will lead me and no man can violate  
Or circumvent His plan . . ."

Claude McKay

The Family

## The Order of Services

Presiding — Bishop Ernest L. Hickman

Processional

Scriptural Sentences

The Reverend Joseph L. Joiner

Hymn — "My Faith Looks Up To Thee"

Bishop Henry W. Murph

Invocation

Bishop Joseph Gomez

Anthem "Come, Come Ye Saints" - Cornwell

The Choir

Old Testament Lesson

Psalm 90

Bishop H. T. Primm

New Testament Lesson

Acts 20:17-35

Bishop G. Dewey Robinson

Solo — "I Trust In God"

The Reverend James L. Dandridge

Acknowledgements

Bishop Frederick H. Talbot

Words of Comfort (Two Minutes)

From—

The Council of Bishops

Bishop Harrison J. Bryant

As A Bishop

Bishop Richard Allen Hildebrand

General and Connectional Officers

Mr Joseph C. McKinney

Presiding Elders

Reverend William L. Freeman

Ministers

Reverend T. E. Harper

Women's Missionary Society

Mrs. Ruth Hughes

Laymen

Mr. Charles L. R. Trott

Youth

The Reverend Jeffery Leath

Selection — "Sail On"

The Choir

Tribute From A Friend

The Reverend Richard R. Stokes

Tribute From The Family

Miss Gwendolyn Necia Bright

Silent Obituary "He's Sweet I Know"

The Organist

Trio — "It Is Well With My Soul"

The White Sisters

The Eulogy

The Rt. Reverend Hubert N. Robinson

Hymn — "The Strife Is O'er"

Recessional — Handel's "The Hallelujah Chorus" Fr. "The Messiah"

*Committal—*

The Rt. Reverend John H. Adams  
The Rt. Reverend Frank M. Reid, Jr.  
The Rt. Reverend Vinton Anderson

*Interment—*

Ivy Hill Cemetery, Easton Road

*Pallbearers—*

The Reverend Herman Rhodes  
The Reverend William Cody  
The Reverend Donald Tucker  
The Reverend Willie Williams  
The Reverend Cyril Butterfield  
The Reverend O. U. Ifill  
The Reverend James K. Baldwin  
The Reverend Elmo A. Bean

*Honorary Bearers—*

Bishops, General Officers, Presiding Elders, C

*Flower Attendants—*

Women's Missionary Society, First Episcopal I

*Funeral Director*

HANKINS FUNERAL HOME  
4075 Haverford Avenue  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19104  
EV 2-5656