

Pallbearers

James Allen	David Johnson
Benny Nance	Thomas Stevenson
Leonard Raybon	Jeffrey Ross

Flower Bearers

Emma Allen	Dellesa Kirk Johnson
Cora Almon	Maxie Kirk
Susie Allen	Brenda Robinson
Rosetta Deyampert	Deborah Robinson
Janice Henry	Winnie Ross
Lillian Ingram	Tiffany Swoopes

Peggy Allen Towns

Honorary Flower Bearers

Mothers of Conference

Honorary Pallbearers

Trustees of Conference

Memorial Service was held

July 15, 2011

Rev. George Allen, Jr. (in charge)

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The family of Bishop Napoleon Priest appreciates all your prayers and many expressions of love and concern. Your prayers and support have helped to strengthen us during our hour of bereavement. God is good and may He bless you all. Please continue to lift us up to the LORD.

The Priest Family

Repast

First Missionary Baptist Church

Funeral Arrangements Entrusted to:

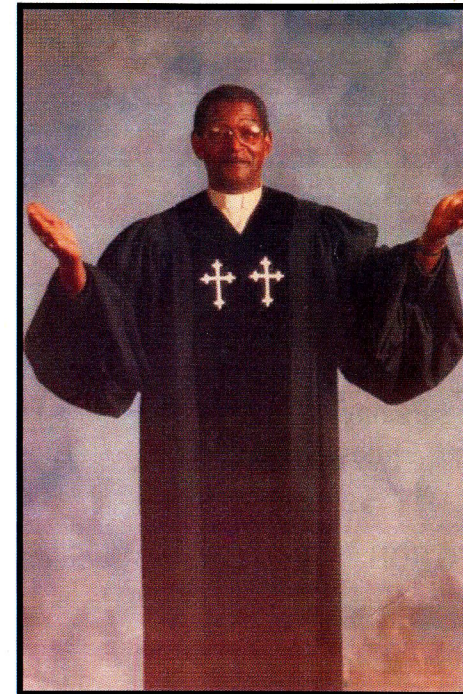
Sharpley Funeral Home

Obituary: Peggy Allen Towns

A Celebration of Service to Christ, the Church and Family

for

Bishop Napoleon Priest



First Missionary Baptist Church

233 Vine Street NW
Decatur, Alabama 35601

Repose: Eleven O'clock a.m.

Worship Service: Twelve O'clock p.m.

Rev. Herbert Cartwright, Pastor
Rev. Charles Kirkpatrick, Officiating

**"I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day:
the night cometh, when no man can work." John 9:4**

Order of Worship

Rev. Charles Kirkpatrick, Officiating

"Father, I stretch my hands to Thee, No other help I know; If Thou withdraw Thyself from me, Ah! Whither shall I go? What did Thine only Son endure, Before I drew my breath! What pain, what labor, to secure, My soul from endless death!"

PRELUDE

PROCESSIONAL

SONG & PRAYER

Sammy Jones

MUSICAL SELECTION

Uncontainable Praise Choir

SCRIPTURES

Old Testament, Psalm 34

The Rev. Doris Baker

New Testament, Ephesians 6:11-18

The Rev. Dr. Vera Watts

St. Paul Spiritual Church, Bessemer, Alabama

MUSICAL SELECTION

Uncontainable Praise Choir

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Mrs. Zenia Griffith

TRIBUTES

Mrs. Peggy Allen Towns

MUSICAL SELECTION

Uncontainable Praise Choir

SERMON

The Rev. Charles Kirkpatrick, Pastor
United Christian Church, Hopson City, Alabama

DUET

Morris Griffin and Miss Karen Griffin

CLOSING PRAYER

Bishop Herron Munn

RECESSIONAL

Interment

Sterrs Cemetery, Decatur, Alabama
Apostle Nell Gholston, in charge

Reflections



"May the Life I lived, Speak for Me."

Bishop Napoleon Priest

February 28, 1935-July 8, 2011

"Lord, now letteth Thou Thy servant depart in peace, according to Thy Word: For mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hath prepared in the sight of all people." Luke 2:29-31

And so it was Bishop Napoleon Priest, "departed in peace" to God who gave him life; to live eternally with our Heavenly Father. A servant of God, devoted husband, father and good friend, Napoleon Priest entered this life on February 28, 1935. He was the fourth son born to John Thomas Priest and Edna Tillie Priest. His eternal summons came July 8, 2011.

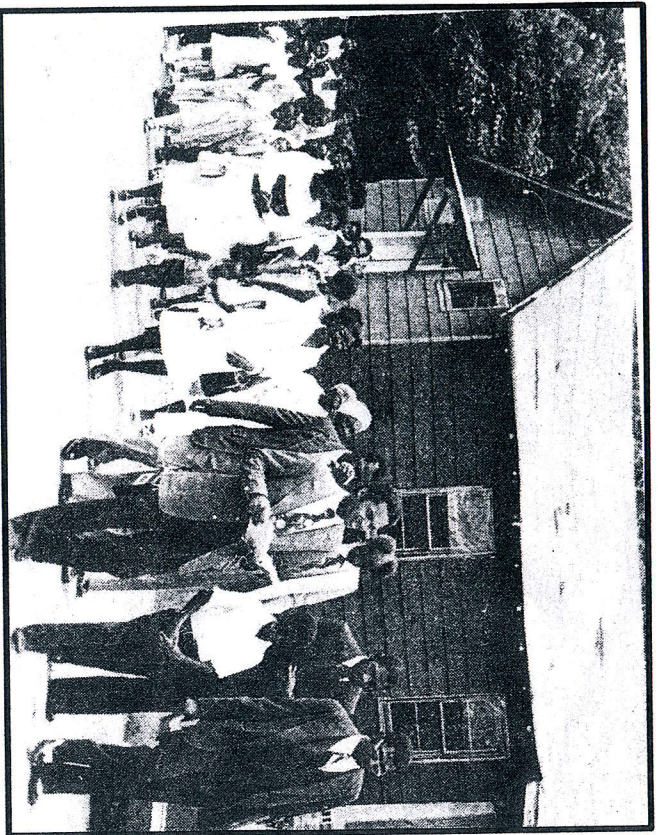
All who knew Bishop Priest would agree that their lives were greatly enriched for having known him. He was vibrant and fun-loving with a zest for life that was contagious. Known for his deep faith in God and tireless commitment to St. Paul and the Spiritual Conference; he confessed a hope in Christ at the age of 13 at First Missionary Baptist Church in Decatur, Alabama, under the pastorship of Rev. William B. Campbell. At the young age of 14, he accepted his calling to preach God's word and was ordained by the hand of Bishop George W. Garrison in 1949. During the span of his ministry, he pastored Mt. Pleasant Spiritual Church, Lanett, Alabama; Mt. Sinai Spiritual Church, Gadsden, Alabama; Mt. Zion Spiritual Church, Anniston, Alabama; Macedonia Spiritual Church, Homewood and Lincoln, Alabama; Mt. Olive Spiritual Church, Nashville, Tennessee; and Homewood Spiritual Church, Homewood, Alabama; Christian Love Spiritual Church, Columbus, Tennessee and Faithful Few at Ensley, Alabama. For the last 42 years, he served as "Under Shepherd" of the St. Paul Spiritual Church in Decatur, Alabama. Praise be to God for his loving spirit, warm smile, kind acts of service, and his willingness to share the gospel and prophecy. With the gift of prophecy, his clients came from all across the United States to meet with him. In 1985, he was ordained and installed as the 3rd Bishop of the Helping Hands Mystic (HHM) Spiritual Church by Revelation, where he remained until his departure. Under his tenure, 9 bishops were consecrated.

Affectionately known as "Priest," "Bay Poleon," and "Bishop," he attended school at Decatur Negro High, in Decatur, Alabama. He retired from Wolverine Tube in Decatur, Alabama with 27 ½ years of service. Bishop Priest loved and embraced all people, he not only ministered to their spiritual needs but was always willing to help in any way that he could. Church and family gatherings were always filled with good food and laughter.

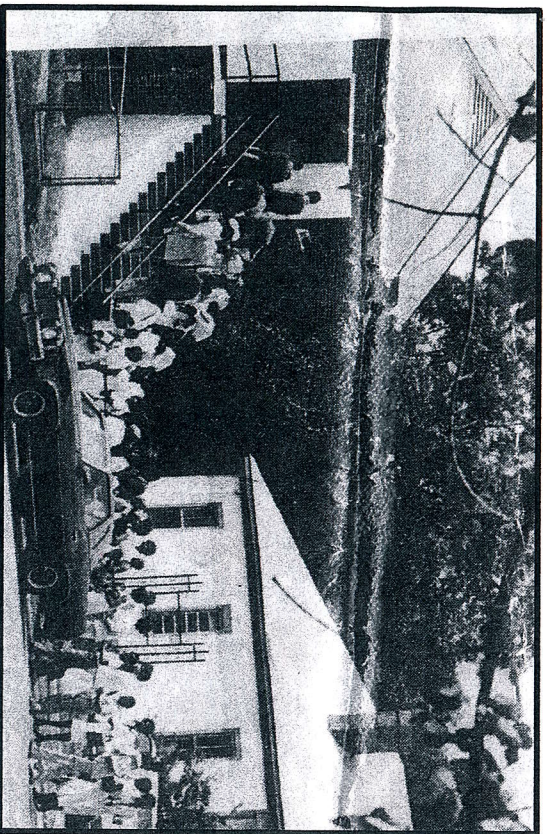
Bishop Priest's legacy of faith, strength and unconditional love will remain in the hearts of those he leaves behind; a loving wife and companion in the gospel, Bishop Annie Ruth Matthews Priest; eight sons, Harold Priest (Narvi) of Nashville, Tennessee, Reginald Priest, Kinneth Priest, Jonathan Priest, Martell Matthews, of Decatur, Alabama, Goree Matthews of Tulsa, Oklahoma, Napoleon Ezell Priest (Kimberly) of Jacksonville, Florida, and Levi Nance (Trelana) of Florissant, Missouri; two daughters, Miss Micah Priest and Miss Arnetra Nance, both of Decatur, Alabama; mother-in-law, Mrs. Winnie Matthews, Decatur, Alabama; one sister, Ms. Hattie M. Davis of Chicago, Illinois; two brothers, David Priest (Beulah) and Edonis Priest, of Chicago, Illinois; two sisters-in law, Miss Julia Clay of Triana, Alabama and Miss Nell Gholston of Decatur, Alabama; two brothers-in law, Robert Matthews and Bobby Matthews (Renee') of Decatur, Alabama; fifteen grandchildren and three loving godchildren, Dellea Kirk Johnson, Maxie Kirk and Ronald Gary Kirk, Jr.; a devoted friend, Jackie Kirk, and many, many special family members and friends. Bishop Priest was preceded in death by his parents; and brothers, Thomas Priest and Russell Priest.

"Jeremiah's hammer hit me in the head, kill me dead. Put on my breast plate of righteousness, the helmet of salvation on my head, my feet shod with the preparation of the gospel." Bishop N. Priest

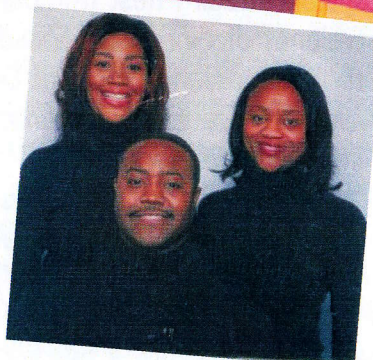
"I know that my redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand on the earth. And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God; I myself will see him with my own eyes." Job 19:25-27



Move from Old St. Paul to new location



Marching into new edifice



My Children

