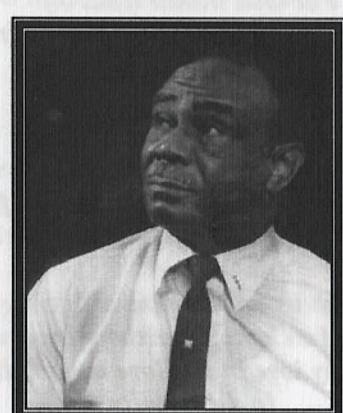


The Homegoing Celebration of Walter M. Simmons

July 19, 1921

June 11, 2001



Saturday, June 16, 2001
11:00 a.m.

The Reverend Noel G. L. Hutchinson, Jr.
Officiating

First Baptist Church, Lauderdale
682 South Lauderdale Street
Memphis, Tennessee 38126

Service and Interment
Tuesday, June 19, 2001
Hatcher-Peoples Funeral Home Chapel
820 Wright Street
Thomasville, Georgia 31782

I Am Living Now To Live Again

I am living now to live again,
For life is too good to close,
As the body breaks with the weight of years,
The soul the stronger grows.

I am living now to live again,
For God within leads on
From dream to deed, from deed to dream,
And shall when earth is gone.

I am living now to live again,
As spirit values will;
For the soul I build of spirit stuff
No death can ever kill.

I am living now to live again,
If a God of love there be;
For my love in His love cannot die
In all eternity.

I am living now to live again---
Flesh and bone will turn to dust;
By my soul, a part of the eternal God,
Can live, will live, it must.

From The Christian Evangelist
By Chauncey R. Piety

Walter M. Simmons

July 19, 1921

~

June 11, 2001

"The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?
the Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?"

Psalm 27:1

At First Baptist Church, Lauderdale (Memphis) which he joined in August 1964, he gave service as Church Clerk, member of the Board of Directors, and Dorcas Circle of the Missionary Society. His energies were given to other facets of the Church's activities. As a gourmet extraordinaire, he was always willing to be the "chef" in preparing menus for the Scholarship Committee's recognition dinner for graduates, and other areas where his expertise was needed.

Life meant a great deal to him, and his life meant so much to others, as in the affairs of young people who could count on him for encouragement as well as financial support. Aside from this, he was a friend to the elderly, who were the beneficiaries of his attention and any assistance he found necessary.

He loved life and lived it to the fullest, but he could not have done this so well without a strong faith in God, where he never put a question mark, and from which he never wavered. He found fulfillment in being a friend and was a loyal alumnus and supporter of Virginia Union University and other educational institutions providing a means for educational enrichment.

Ecclesiastes 11:1 helped to shape his character: "Cast thy bread upon the waters: for thou shalt find it after many days." The "return" is in the hearts of these who are left to cherish his memory: Lola El Fassieh (Ernie) of New York; Eloise Butler (favorite cousin), Cheryl D. Butler, Kaner Butler, Jr., and Brittany N. Butler, all of Yellow Springs, Ohio; Elizabeth Leonard, Columbus, Georgia; Stephanie and Henry Crosby, Golden Valley, Minnesota; Juanita Roberts, Colorado Springs, Colorado; William V. Mitchell (Emorial), Thomasville, Georgia; Lenzy Spence (Joyce), Lithonia, Georgia; Marion Franklin, Evelyn Coleman, Arthur Coleman, Thomasville; Lloyd Coleman, Jr., Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Jacqueline Akerman Moore (Ken) surrogate daughter, Chattanooga, Tennessee; Michael Akerman (Jeanette) surrogate son, Thomasville; Hazel Fountaine and Beverly Fountaine of College Park, Georgia; Dorthula Mayo Davis, Thomasville, a life-long friend; and innumerable other friends and acquaintances throughout the world, along with his blended family at First Baptist Church, Lauderdale.

"...A faithful man shall abound with blessings.
Thou shalt lie down, and thy sleep shall be sweet."
-Proverbs

Acknowledgments

The family of Brother Walter M. Simmons wishes to thank friends, neighbors, church members, and co-workers for your many comforting messages and prayers. Your kindness will be forever remembered and appreciated.

Pallbearers

The Official Family
First Baptist Church, Lauderdale



Interment
Magnolia Cemetery
Thomasville, Georgia

Arrangements Entrusted to:
T. H. Hayes Funeral Home
Memphis, Tennessee 38126

Hatcher-Peoples Funeral Home
Thomasville, Georgia 31782

Program
First Baptist Church, Lauderdale

A Testament To the Life of Walter M. Simmons

"Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might:"
-Ecclesiastes 9:10

We celebrate the Homegoing of Walter M. Simmons, not by lamentations or regret, but with thanksgiving and appreciation to God for allowing him to inhabit this earth, influencing for good and touching countless lives, for many years.

Ceasing to physically dwell among us as of Monday, June 11, 2001, he has entered upon the heritage of a diviner and larger life, but his spirit remains in our midst.

He was born July 19, 1921 in Thomasville, Georgia, the youngest of fifteen children parented by Mardena (Jason) Simmons and Lola Larkin Simmons. Very early in life he accepted Christ as his Savior and joined First Baptist Church in Thomasville where he served throughout his residence there.

Beyond elementary and high school, he matriculated at Virginia Union University (Richmond, Virginia) from which he received the Bachelor of Arts Degree, and the Master of Arts Degree from Atlanta University (Atlanta, Georgia.) He continued studies at Harvard University, North Texas University, University of California at San Diego, and the University of Pennsylvania.

He served as a teacher in South Georgia, and for fourteen years as principal of Nashville (Georgia) Elementary and High Schools. Later he moved to Memphis, and for twenty years held positions as teacher/administrator for Memphis City School from which he retired in 1984.

Order of Service

Prelude Mrs. Yvonne Cleveland-Holmes

Processional

Hymn "Great is Thy Faithfulness" #153

Scripture Psalm 27
John 14:1-6

Prayer

Hymn "We've Come This Far 'By Faith" Choir

~Expressions of Reflections~

Official Family Mr. James Gregory
First Baptist Church, Lauderdale Mrs. Jeraldine Sanderlin

Hymn "Jesus Is All the World to Me" Choir

Obituary Read Silently

Hymn "The Lord Is My Light" Choir

Eulogy Noel G. L. Hutchinson, Jr., Pastor

Recessional

Order of Service

Hatcher-Peoples Funeral Home Chapel
820 Wright Street
Thomasville, Georgia 31782
The Reverend Charlie Ross, Officiating

Prelude

Processional

Hymn "Jesus Is All the World to Me"

Scripture Psalm 27
John 14:1-6

Prayer

Hymn "I Surrender All"

Expressions Dr. Otis Johnson, Atlanta, Georgia

Obituary Read Silently

Acknowledgements Ms. Evelyn Coleman

Solo "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" Ms. Lyn Warner

Eulogy Rev. Charlie Ross

Recessional