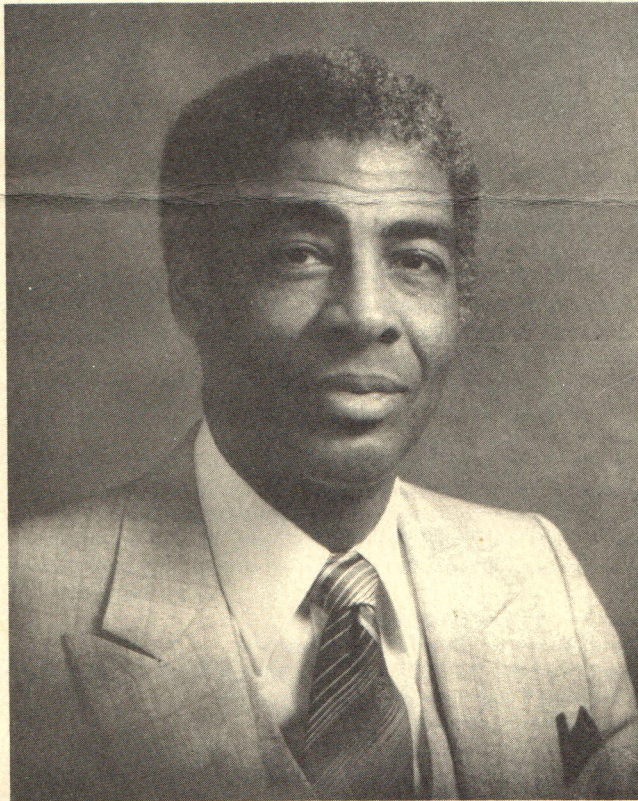


**A Memorial Service**  
**Celebrating the Life and Ministry**  
**of**



**Kelly Miller Smith, Sr.**  
**1920 — 1984**

•  
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 6, 1984  
7:00 P.M.

THURSDAY, JUNE 7, 1984  
5:00 P.M.

•  
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, CAPITOL HILL  
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE



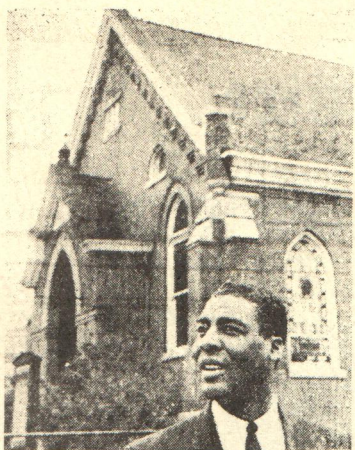
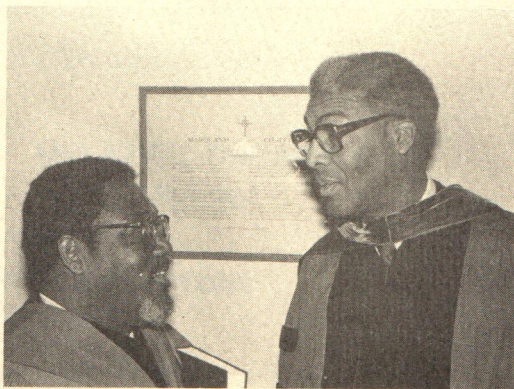
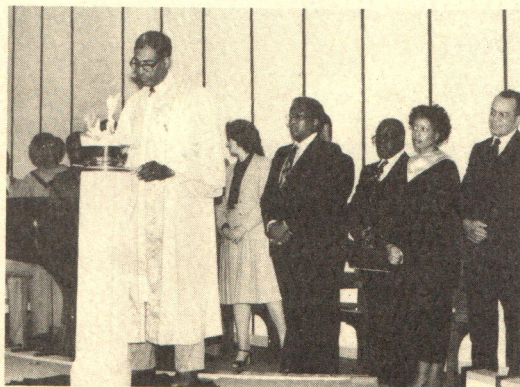


Photo by Jack Corn



## Highlights

- 1920 — Born in Mound Bayou, Mississippi
- 1938 — Graduated, Magnolia Avenue High School, Vicksburg, Mississippi
- 1938-40 — Attended Tennessee State University
- 1942 — Received the B.A. degree from Morehouse College
- 1945 — Received the B.D. (M.Div) degree from Howard University Divinity School
- 1946-51 — Served as Pastor of Mount Heroden Baptist Church, Vicksburg, Mississippi
- 1951-84 — Served as Pastor of First Baptist Church, Capitol Hill, Nashville, and reorganized the members around the concept of diverse ministries.
- 1955-69 — Served as Executive Board member of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC)
- 1958-63 — Founded the Nashville Christian Leadership Council, Affiliate of SCLC
- 1967 — Studied as a Merrill Fellow at Harvard University  
Served as member, Advisory Council on Theological Education, American Baptist Convention
- 1968-84 — Served as Assistant Dean, Vanderbilt University Divinity School
- 1969 — Founded Local Chapter Opportunities Industrialization Center, Inc.
- 1970 — Named Honorary Tribal Chief, The Basuka Tribe, Zaire, Central Africa
- 1972 — Dedicated to the glory of God the new church edifice, at James Robertson Parkway at Nelson Merry Street.
- 1974 — Established a bus ministry at the church
- 1976 — Received the D.D. degree from Howard University
- 1979 — Received a citation from the National Conference of Christians and Jews
- 1979-82 — President, National Conference of Black Christians
- 1980 — Ordained two women as deacons
- 1983 — Delivered the prestigious Lyman Beecher Lectures at Yale University
- 1975-84 — Served as member of Board of Directors, Morehouse School of Religion  
Served as member, Faith and Order Commission, World Council of Churches
- 1984 — Listed as "one of America's Ten Most Outstanding Preachers" by *Ebony Magazine*
- May, 1984 — *Social Crisis Preaching*, a book published by Mercer University Press based on the Lyman Beecher Lectures at Yale University.





# Memorial Celebration

*"Man without God is a seed upon the wind."*

—Howard Thurman

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 6, 1984, 7:00 P.M.

ROBERT C. WILLIAMS

Associate Professor of Philosophy, Vanderbilt University

*Presiding*

PRELUDE—March of the Noble ..... *Keats*  
Ida V. Black, Organist

## CALL TO WORSHIP:

Bless the Lord ..... *Crouch*

INVOCATION ..... Helen N. Teague  
Deacon

SCRIPTURE READING: Psalm 139..... Cedric E. Gibb  
Pastoral Assistant for Social Concerns

MUSIC—The Heavens are Telling—Creation ..... *Haydn*

Mai Olive Lusk, Soprano / William Washburn, Jr., Tenor / J. Franklin Taylor, Bass

Sanctuary Choir, Samella W. Junior-Spence, Director

Jesus, Thou Joy of Loving Heart ..... *Work*  
(Written for Kelly Miller Smith, Sr.)

Sanctuary Choir

Solo ..... Jill Jones

Let Mount Zion Rejoice ..... *Ashford*

Derryl Jones, Soprano / Ronald Crawford, Tenor

TRIBUTES: ..... Joseph E. Lowery

President, Southern Christian Leadership Conference, Atlanta, Georgia

Harold Jackson

President, National Conference of Black Christians, Pomona, California

Walter L. Parrish, II

Executive Minister, American Baptist Churches of the South, Laurel, Maryland

Evans C. Crawford

Dean, Rankin Chapel, Howard University, Washington, D.C.

MUSIC—Listen to the Lambs ..... *Dett*

Mary Maurant, Soprano

Sanctuary Choir

Solo—Balm in Gilead ..... *arr. Dawson*

William Washburn, Jr., Tenor

Ain — a That Good News ..... *arr. Dawson*

Sanctuary Choir

Solo—Ride On King Jesus ..... *arr. Johnson*

Bill Calloway, Baritone

Rocking Jerusalem ..... *arr. Work*

Jeanette Bass Jones, Soprano

Sanctuary Choir

TRIBUTES: ..... Richard Fulton

Mayor, Nashville, Tennessee

H. Jackson Forstman

Dean, Vanderbilt Divinity School, Nashville, Tennessee

Charles L. Dinkins

Pastor, First Baptist Church, Lauderdale, Memphis, Tennessee

Marcel Kellar

President, Interdenominational Ministers' Fellowship, Nashville, Tennessee

## MUSIC—

Solo—Jesus Is All The World To Me ..... *Arranged*

Ronald Crawford, Tenor

Through It All ..... *Gaither*

Carol Choir

Everleaner Crawford, Director

Close to Thee ..... *arr. Wooten*

Concord Choir

Gloria Elam, Director

God Is Still On the Throne ..... *Martin*

Ida V. Black, Soprano

J. Franklin Taylor, Bass

Sweet Peace

Words and Music by Kelly Miller Smith, Sr.

READING—"The Sustainer of Life" ..... by Howard Thurman

BENEDICTION—Hallelujah — Messiah ..... *Handel*



# Funeral Service

THURSDAY, JUNE 7, 1984

PRELUDE ..... Anthony Williams, Organist  
Graduate Student, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan  
Ralph Simpson, Organist  
Chairman, Department of Music, Tennessee State University  
Charlotte Scott Rhodes, Pianist  
Assistant Professor, Department of Music, Tennessee State University

•  
5:00 P.M.

PETER J. PARIS  
Professor, Ethics and Society, Vanderbilt Divinity School  
*Presiding*

PROCESSIONAL — Alleluia! Alleluia ..... *Armstrong*  
Ida V. Black, Organist

ANTHEM — Hallelujah — *Mount of Olives* ..... *Beethoven*  
Sanctuary Choir

INVOCATION ..... Samuel DeWitt Proctor  
Senior Minister, Abyssinian Baptist Church, New York, New York

INTROIT — All For The Lord ..... *Wimmer*  
Carol Choir

ANTHEM — Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring ..... *Bach*  
Concord Choir

SCRIPTURE READINGS: Psalm 27 ..... *Ottie L. West*  
Pastoral Assistant for Worship

I Corinthians 15: 51-58 ..... *Edward L. Wheeler*  
Dean, Morehouse School of Religion, Atlanta, Georgia

ANTHEM — Praise the Lord ..... *Franck*  
Sanctuary Choir

EULOGY ..... Samuel B. McKinney  
Pastor, Mount Zion Baptist Church, Seattle, Washington

RECESSIONAL — Exultate Deo ..... *Williams*

•  
Interment  
Greenwood Cemetery



## Obituary

Kelly Miller Smith was born on October 28, 1920 to Perry Monroe and Priscilla Anderson Smith in the all black city of Mound Bayou, Mississippi. He was the fourth child in a Christian family of seven children. He departed this life on Sunday evening, June 3, 1984.

At an early age he joined the First Baptist Church of Mound Bayou. His pastor who baptized him sensed that one day he would become a minister.

After receiving his early education in Mound Bayou and graduating from Magnolia High School in Vicksburg, he began his college career at Tennessee State University as a music major. Kelly played a variety of musical instruments including double bass, xylophone and piano. He had many musical compositions to his credit. His faith and devotion to Christianity, however, led him to Morehouse College where he graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Religion. He went on to receive the Master of Divinity Degree from Howard University Divinity School which also awarded him the honorary Doctor of Divinity degree in 1976.

His first pastorate was at Mount Heroden Baptist Church in Vicksburg where he served for five years. Once again the music bug revealed itself in his pastoral activities as he arranged music for a church choral group, "The Chansonettes", which he directed.

In 1951, Reverend Smith was called to become the pastor of First Baptist Church, Eighth Avenue, North — now Capitol Hill, in Nashville, Tennessee. He and his young wife, the former Alice Mae Clark of Jackson, Mississippi and their baby girl, Joy Ardelia, moved to Tennessee. He remained at First Baptist for thirty-three years with the exception of a four month period in 1963.

Early in his ministry in Nashville, Reverend Smith became a leader in the struggle for human rights by assuming the major leadership role in the sit-in demonstrations and the desegregation of the public schools. He founded and presided over the Nashville Christian Leadership Council (NCLC) and the local chapter of the Opportunities Industrialization Center (OIC). He served also as President of the Nashville chapter of the NAACP. Time Magazine noted that "he is the one person who deserves major credit for Nashville's racial transition."

In addition to his many pastoral accomplishments, Reverend Smith inspired the congregation to construct two magnificent facilities: the new church building which was opened and dedicated in March 1972; the first minority owned housing unit in Nashville for the elderly and handicapped — the one hundred ten (110) unit Kelly Miller Smith Towers.

Another significant aspect of Reverend Smith's leadership lay in the area of education. In addition to his struggle for racial justice in public education, he founded several scholarship funds both at the church and beyond. As teacher he has served on the faculties of Natchez College, Alcorn College, American Baptist Theological Seminary and for the past sixteen years at Vanderbilt Divinity School where he also served as Assistant Dean. Reverend Smith has lectured widely in numerous universities and colleges throughout the country. His invitation to deliver the 1983 Lyman Beecher Lectures at Yale University constituted one of the highest honors in theological education. Those lectures were published in May of this year by Mercer University Press under the title, *Social Crisis Preaching*. Numerous publications have reported on the life and ministry of Kelly Miller Smith.

Reverend Smith's leadership on the national and international scenes has been most significant. He was a founding member of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference; President of the National Conference of Black Christians; National Chairman of the International Freedom Mobilization, and served on numerous boards and committees of national church and civic organizations. Further, Reverend Smith has preached widely in various countries of the Third World including the Democratic Republic of Zaire, Ghana, South America and India. In Zaire he was appointed Honorary Tribal Chief of the Basuka Tribe.

Reverend Smith's commitment to the Ecumenical Movement was evidenced by his long years of service as a member of the Faith and Order Commission of the World Council of Churches.

In brief, Reverend Smith's life and ministry made an indelible mark on all dimensions of our common life. His congenial personality, his expertise in numerous fields, his ability to mediate and promote calm when circumstances often dictated otherwise — all demonstrated his devotion to God and his love for all peoples. His immediate family, his church, his community, his friends, far and wide, will be ever grateful for the tremendous contributions he made to their lives.

Reverend Smith is survived by his wife, Mrs. Alice C. Smith; daughters, Ms. Dorothy J. Springfield, Washington, D.C., Ms. Joy A. Smith, New York, New York, Mrs. Adena S. Wright and Ms. Valerie Lin Smith, Nashville, Tennessee; son, Reverend Kelly Miller Smith, Jr., Nashville, Tennessee; son-in-law, Dr. Michael L. Wright; daughter-in-law, Mrs. Sue H. Smith; sister, Mrs. Zeraline Verner, South Orange, New Jersey; brothers, Perry A. Smith and Reverend Kemper H. Smith, Mound Bayou, Mississippi and Daniel M. Smith, Cleveland, Mississippi and Dr. Oswald G. Smith, Rockville Centre, New York; aunt, Mrs. Zee A. Barron, Mound Bayou, Mississippi; seven grandchildren; a host of nieces, nephews and cousins; First Baptist Church, Capitol Hill family; other relatives and friends.



## Honorary Pallbearers

Black Community Forum  
Board of Directors, Morehouse School of Religion, Atlanta, Georgia  
Board of Trustees, First Baptist Church, Capitol Hill Homes, Inc.  
Faculty, Vanderbilt Divinity School  
Interdenominational Ministers' Fellowship  
Metropolitan Commission of Human Relations  
Nashville Chapter, Morehouse College Alumni Association  
Board of Trustees, First Baptist Church, Capitol Hill

## Active Pallbearers

Deacons, First Baptist Church, Capitol Hill  
Ministers, First Baptist Church, Capitol Hill

## Flowerbearers

American Baptist Women, First Baptist Church, Capitol Hill  
Interdenominational Ministers' Wives  
Stones River District Association Ministers' Wives

## Acknowledgement

*During the past months we have received countless expressions of concern and love. Our hearts are warmed by all those who have ministered to us during this trying time. With deep gratitude we wish to acknowledge all of our friends who have given of themselves in the true Christian spirit of love and generosity. We pray God's blessings on you always.*

*The Kelly Miller Smith, Sr. family*

Patton Brothers / Lewis and Smith  
South Chapel  
Directors