



Rev. Dr. J. Derrill Smith

July 28, 1952 - September 30, 2022

The Reverend Dr. J. Derrill Smith, 70, of Seneca, South Carolina, passed away peacefully at his residence surrounded by beloved family on Friday, September 30, 2022 from complications caused by Lewy Body Dementia.

The son of the late Hubert and Bertha Dyar Smith, Derrill is survived by his wife of almost 49 years, Cindy Phillips Smith; their children Phillip and Caroline, both of Seneca; and grandchildren Shaila, Tanner and Hazel Trulove. Surviving also are three of four brothers: Ken and wife Kathy of Seneca; Billy and wife Teresa of Easley; and Wayne and wife Stacey of Seneca; as well as thirteen nieces and nephews and their children. His eldest brother, Ronnie, never forgotten, passed away in 1956 as a child after a long period of ill health. The middle son of five, Derrill was honored to name his youngest brother Wayne in 1959, a privilege he was proud to share. To Derrill, family was of utmost importance, a fact evident to all who knew him and witnessed the incredibly strong bond of love among family members. Cindy was the love of his life; his children and grandchildren his pride and joy; and his brothers were a constant source of support and fun-natured humor. Family gatherings with the Smith brothers were never dull!

At a young age, Derrill followed his passion for people as a minister. A native of Seneca, he graduated from Seneca High School in 1970 and pursued his ministerial education at Anderson College, Central Wesleyan College,

Southern Baptist Seminary in Louisville, and Erskine Seminary where he earned a Doctor of Ministry (D.Min.)

Derrill began his pastoral career at College Street Baptist Church in Walhalla SC. While at Seminary in Kentucky, he pastored Pond Run Baptist Church in Echols KY before returning, upon graduation, to Seneca to serve as pastor at Return Baptist Church. After several years of service to churches in Oconee County SC, Derrill and his family were called to North Carolina where he served first at Grace Baptist Church in Asheville and then at Wingate Baptist Church in Wingate. Upon his retirement in 2018, Derrill and Cindy returned to his hometown of Seneca, South Carolina where they continued serving God and community as members of Trinity Baptist Church.

In addition to his ministry, Derrill had a passion for positive interactions with people. He was an active participant in several mission trips, both nationally and internationally. He liked being outdoors and especially looked forward to the family's annual beach trip to Edisto. As an avid athlete who enjoyed friendly competitions, Derrill played tennis, biked, swam, golfed, and participated in The Rock Steady Boxing Program at Foothills Area YMCA. He also loved watching the Atlanta Braves and Clemson Football games with family and friends.

In accordance to his wishes, a memorial Celebration of Life service for the Reverend Dr. J. Derrill Smith will be held at Trinity Baptist Church, 504 South Oak Street, Seneca SC 29678 on Saturday, October 8th, 2022 at 1:00 PM. A gathering time for visitation with family and friends will follow in the Fellowship Hall at Trinity Baptist Church after the service.

Flowers are accepted as are charitable donations made to The Starlight Program at Tamassee DAR School, PO Box 8, Tamassee SC 29686 in memory of Derrill's mother-in-law, Lou Jean Trulove.

The family is appreciative of the assistance provided by Prisma Hospice, the Seneca Fire Department, the caregivers, and researchers of Lewy Body Dementia.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

OCT 8. 1:00 PM (ET)

Trinity Baptist Church
504 S Oak St
Seneca, SC 29678
(864) 882-9396

Tribute Wall

PN

“ *My thoughts and prayers are with you during this difficult time. Patti Petaccio Nelson*



Patti Nelson - March 02, 2023 at 12:55 PM



“ *Rev. Dr. J. Derrill Smith*

January 28, 2023 at 01:03 PM

LA

“ *To Ken and the Smith family, Sympathies to you and all your family in the passing of your brother. Rev. Dr. Derrill lived a good life, loving and serving God for many years. God bless each of you during this time of healing. So many memories you will always have to enjoy. LC and Mary Jo Alexander*



LC Alexander - October 09, 2022 at 03:35 PM

NH

“ *Nora Harmon lit a candle in memory of J. Derrill Smith*



Nora Harmon - October 07, 2022 at 06:38 PM

DM

“ I am so glad that I got to see Derrill & Cindy at the SHS 50 Year reunion on September 10th...May God be with and strengthen the family...Diane Martin Class of 1972

Diane Davis Martin - October 06, 2022 at 09:22 PM

KA

“ kathy Addis lit a candle in memory of J. Derrill Smith



kathy Addis - October 05, 2022 at 08:43 PM

BC

“ Dear Cindy, I'm at a loss to adequately express my deep feelings of loss. I truly loved Derrick and relish my memories of our shared ministries on Haywood Road as neighboring pastors. Cindy, Frances and I send our love, thoughts and prayers as you journey with your grief.

Buddy Corbin - October 05, 2022 at 08:06 PM

FB

“ I am John Dyar's former wife. Faye O'quinn Dyar Bartlett. I remember Derrill as a sweet, wonderful guy. Have not seen him in 30 years but do remember good times. Prayers for Derrill's family.

Faye O. Bartlett - October 05, 2022 at 04:32 PM

NL

“ *Nancy Lowery lit a candle in memory of J. Derrill Smith*



Nancy Lowery - October 05, 2022 at 10:56 AM

NL

“ *I'm so sorry to hear of Derrill passing. He was a wonderful friend and great pastor. His love for family and his congregation was so evident. He was a wonderful man of God and I'm blessed to have known him. Sincere sympathy to Cindy and family.*

Nancy Lowery - October 05, 2022 at 10:53 AM

TS

“ So sorry to hear of Derrill's passing--but, he's Home now and has finally seen Jesus face-to-Face! Glory!! I still have such fond memories of Derrill, Ron Avant and I playing golf together while in seminary--although, "occasionally," we'd skip chapel to do so. :) Can you believe that?!? hahaha :)

In fact, the last time I saw him was years ago when I was in revival in Ron's church in S.C. and Derrill joined us for a round of golf. He was good! And, I accused him of spending more time visiting the "Greens' family" than he did studying for sermons. hahaha ;) I think that's called "jealousy" or "envy." :)

Anyway, just know we love you and the family, Cindy, and hate we can't be there for his Home-going celebration on Saturday. Rest assured that you all are in our prayers. God bless you.

*Tommy and Debbie Smith
Mulberry, AR
I Pet. 5:7*

Tom Smith - October 05, 2022 at 10:39 AM



“ Gracious Lavender Basket was purchased for the family of Rev. Dr. J. Derrill Smith.



October 05, 2022 at 09:48 AM

GC

“ Derrill was an inspiration and encourager as we began a CBFNC church start in Hendersonville. We so appreciated his influence in this area of Western North Carolina when he was here. I was always so glad to visit with him at later meetings and gatherings. Thanks be to God for Derrill Smith.

Gail Coulter - October 04, 2022 at 10:43 PM

JB

“ Jimmy Jeannie Barker lit a candle in memory of J. Derrill Smith



Jimmy and Jeannie Barker - October 04, 2022 at 07:56 PM

JY

“ Derrill pastored Grace at the same time I was in Candler as Pastor of Hominy. He became a dear friend quickly but I also quickly understood that he made everyone feel like a dear friend. When a family member died tragically almost 9 years ago, Derrill reached out and made such a difference. I shall miss him so. Joe Yelton

Joe Yelton - October 04, 2022 at 06:02 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Rev. Dr. J. Derrill Smith.



October 04, 2022 at 05:36 PM

GD

“ When I was a little girl, Derrill was pastor at my home church. I called him the “red preacher” because of his red hair. I am grateful that he came “home” to Pond Run a couple of years ago for homecoming, and that I was able to visit with him and Cindy. I will always cherish that visit. Love and prayers for his family.



Georgina Dockery - October 04, 2022 at 05:33 PM

MT

“ Friendship with Derrill is one of my cherished memories of pastoring in Western NC. Loved his wicked sense of humor and raucous laughter. And then, in the same breath, could make a deeply insightful point. Love to you, Cindy, from Vicki and me.

Michael Tutterow

Michael Tutterow - October 04, 2022 at 04:27 PM

JN

“ So sorry to learn of Derrill’s passing! I enjoyed being one of several ministers who met monthly for support, learning and prayer. Derrill’s words were always meaningful and helpful. Praying for Derrill’s family. May God’s comfort, peace and strength be with you.

Jim Nelson - October 04, 2022 at 04:24 PM

CS

“ I was sorry to hear of Darryl’s passing. He was a fellow pastor and a friend during his years in Asheville. Darryl was a wonderful conversationalist and a fine Christian gentleman. My condolences to all the family.

Charlie Sams - October 04, 2022 at 03:42 PM

PR

“ *Derrill was a close colleague and friend during his time in Asheville. He made time together more real and usually more fun. Praying for Cindy and family.*

Paul Raybon, Hominy Baptist Church

Paul Raybon - October 04, 2022 at 03:12 PM

DB

“ *Oh! He's walking the fairways that are better than Masters perfect!! He was a wonderful staff leader at Grace. He baptized my oldest daughter, Laura Doi. He provided wise counsel. I loved the mill-hill boy who brandished dictionary words with glee and relished each new edition to his vast vocabulary. J. Derrill preached the best funerals & lived his sermons. I am blessed forever to have known him. Big, gentle hugs to Cindy, Caroline, & Phillip. Love & prayers, Dorothy Bevill*

Dorothy E Bevill - October 04, 2022 at 01:01 PM



“ *I first met Derrill at a pastors spiritual formation retreat years ago and was so taken by his spirit. For years afterwards we stayed in touch and I was always the benefactor of his strong and thoughtful encouragement. By every indication he loved well, and was a faithful leader and pastor to many. Deeply grateful for his life and ministry. Peace to his family in these days. Rick Bennett*

Rick Bennett - October 04, 2022 at 11:43 AM

JD

“ So sorry to hear about Derrill’s passing. What a kind, loving man and he will always be remembered by me. It was always special to visit Derrill and brothers, when we came down to SC from Chicago. Derrill married Sara and Justin 07/07/07 at the lake house. It was a wonderful celebration and he made it special to have a cousin officiate. Judy Smith Dahlin. Praying for all.

Judy Smith Dahlin - October 04, 2022 at 10:52 AM

DN

“ We were married by Derrill on May 2, 1980 at College St. Baptist Church. He was a wonderful person and a good friend. May God bless his family. Heaven is a better place. Debbie and Bruce Nicholson

Debbie Nicholson - October 04, 2022 at 10:22 AM

JK

“ Jeff and Kris purchased the Fairest of All for the family of Rev. Dr. J. Derrill Smith.



Jeff and Kris - October 04, 2022 at 08:21 AM

DF

“ Derrill was always the fun and outgoing guy. Robert and I loved being with him and Cindy. From Kings Island years ago to the last visit when they stayed with us. He will be missed. So sorry for your loss.

Delona Fulkerson - October 04, 2022 at 08:03 AM

TL

“ I remember amazing times in the Crusader Choir with Derrill and all the beautiful Smith sisters. Derrill was a pastor with a pastors heart. We love you all and are praying for the family. Cindy, I pray the Great Comforter will comfort your heart in the days of grief for such a great void of your dear husband.

Tammy and Tony Lollis - October 04, 2022 at 12:07 AM

JC

“ Jimmie Chappell lit a candle in memory of



Jimmie Chappell - October 03, 2022 at 11:57 PM

KM

“ Cindy and Family, So many fond memories of wonderful time spent together in the past. Derrill was always a people person and my entire family loved him. A person with a brilliant mind. Heaven's gain. You are in our thoughts and prayers
Love,
Lane and Kathy Morgan

Kathryn Morgan - October 03, 2022 at 10:18 PM

BH

“ Derrill will always have a special place in my heart. He was central in my calling to serve the church and showed me the power of servant-leadership. He was not only a pastor to me and my wife, but a true friend and supportive colleague. Rest well good and faithful servant of God.

Brian Hehn - October 03, 2022 at 09:41 PM



“ Wayne F Barton sent a virtual gift in memory of



Wayne F Barton - October 03, 2022 at 09:19 PM



“ Wayne F Barton lit a candle in memory of



Wayne F Barton - October 03, 2022 at 09:18 PM



“ Neil Geraldine Ford lit a candle in memory of



Neil & Geraldine Ford - October 03, 2022 at 08:45 PM



“ Cindy and Family— so sorry to see that Derrill has passed, but we all know he is with the Lord. I remember especially our special times with the Crusader Choir that changed many of our lives— happy memories—Gods continued blessing with you and your family— much love— Jan (Rice)



Jan Rice - October 03, 2022 at 08:20 PM

CC

“ Derrill Smith was a wonderful man so full of spirit and kindness. He had a positive influence on too many lives to count. His passion for ministry was evident in his daily interaction with his family, church members and everyone he met. We have not known a more honorable, gracious man, and we loved him dearly. Our thoughts are with Cindy, Phillip, Caroline and his other family members. He was taken from us too soon. RIP, Derrill

Cary and Royce Caines - October 03, 2022 at 07:30 PM

SM

“ So sorry to hear of Darryl's passing. Your family is in our prayers.

Sandra H McDonald - October 03, 2022 at 06:43 PM

JP

“ I was privileged to call him family we were 1st cousins on the Smith side. I loved talking to him at reunions always glad to see him and his sweet brothers. This was a good man and will be missed. Hubert his Dad help raise his brothers and sisters and Mom considered Hubert to be her Dad.

Jill Hughes Patterson - October 03, 2022 at 05:10 PM

BJ

“ Thoughts and prayers for Derrill's family
Bess Hunter Jones. SHS Class of 1970

Bess Hunter Jones - October 03, 2022 at 04:50 PM