

Celebrating The Life Of



Reverend William (Willie) E. Ray

FEBRUARY 4, 1949—APRIL 20, 2025

Friday, May 9, 2025

Wake 10:00 am Funeral 11:00 am

NEW SHILOH BAPTIST CHURCH

2100 N. Monroe Street, Harold A. Carter Way

Baltimore, Maryland 21217

Dr. Harold A. Carter, Jr. Pastor

“A Church Determined to Live With Christ”



“Without a vision, the people will perish” Proverbs 29:18

Obituary

In Loving Memory of Reverend William Edward Ray

Reverend William “Willie” Edward Ray, a devoted servant of God and tireless advocate for the youth of Baltimore, entered the Heavenly Kingdom on Resurrection Sunday, April 20, 2025. Born on February 4, 1949, in Baltimore, Maryland, he was the beloved son of the late George and Corren (Isaac) Ray and the youngest brother of seven siblings: Wyman Isaac, Francis “Fiersus” Neverdon, George “Bubbles” Ray, Jr., Betty Jean Young, Isaac “Peckie” Ray, Elliot “Eckie” Ray, and Evelyn “Netty” Powell, all of whom preceded him in death.

Rev. Ray’s journey was one of faith, scholarship, and service. A graduate of Frederick Douglass High School, he pursued higher education at Antioch University before completing theological training at the Young Life Institute Seminary in New York. His commitment to urban ministry led him to pursue further study at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary in Massachusetts, where he deepened his understanding of theology and social engagement in their Master of Urban Theology program.

As a young man, Rev. Ray was very much a part of the hip entertainment culture of the time; he maintained a full social life and enjoyed having a good time.

The assassination of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on April 4, 1968 ignited Rev. Ray’s calling to the ministry. Caught up in the excitement of the circumstances that followed, Rev. Ray believed that God was getting his attention telling him to set an example for inner-city youth. He was licensed by Bishop L.K. Ceasar of First Mt. Olive Freewill Baptist Church in 1972 and interned at New Shiloh Baptist Church under Rev. Dr. Harold A. Carter, Sr. in 1973. Rev. Ray was ordained by Rev. Dr. Vernon Dobson of Union Baptist and Bishop Winfield Showell of First Apostolic Faith Church on March 25, 1977. He served as an Associate to Rev. Dr. Arnold W. Howard at the Enon Baptist Church in 1995. Rev. Ray was the Founder and Pastor of New Promiseland Baptist Church in 2008 which was later rededicated in 2015. On January 1, 2020, Rev. Ray joined the New Shiloh Baptist Church now pastored by Rev. Dr. Harold A. Carter, Jr.

For over five decades, Rev. Ray was a beacon of hope, tirelessly advocating for troubled youth and working toward social justice. In 1969 he secured \$250,000 for the restoration and renovation of the Pine Street Police Station and establishing Redeemer’s Palace, a self-help program for those seeking to reclaim their lives from substance abuse and the criminal underworld. His passion led to the creation of organizations like Save Another Youth, Inc. and the Stop The Violence Coalition Movement, which provided mentorship, safe havens, and opportunities for young people. His work extended beyond the pulpit through initiatives such as candlelight vigils, back-to-school block parties, and community outreach programs designed to uplift the city’s most vulnerable. Reverend Ray ran for a seat on the Baltimore City Council in 1987.

Rev. Ray’s impact was far-reaching, touching lives across Baltimore through his collaborations with faith leaders, policymakers, and social activists. His enduring legacy is one of unwavering commitment to his community, a steadfast devotion to God, and a deep love for humanity.

Rev. William Edward Ray leaves to cherish his memory a host of nieces, nephews, and cousins as well as a vast community of colleagues, friends, and people he helped and influenced throughout his years of service.

STOP THE VIOLENCE - SAVE OUR YOUTH

“I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith.”

Order of Service

Bishop Rasheed Ray, Officiating
Pastor, Emmanuel United Church

THE FAMILY STATEMENT(OBITUARY).....Condolence Clerk

THE HYMN OF PRAISE“Blessed Assurance”Congregation

THE PRAYER Minister Annette Isaac, New Psalmist Baptist Church

THE HOLY WORD OF GOD

Old Testament: Isaiah 6:1-8.....**Minister Glenn I. Smith, Save Another Youth, Inc.**

New Testament: Matthew 6:31-34**Reverend Doctor Sandra Conner**
Pastor, Shepherd’s Heart Missionary Baptist Church

President, Baptist Ministers Night Conference of Baltimore and Vicinity

SOLOSherry Hunt

WORDS OF COMFORT (2 minutes)

Friend**Victor Clark** Treasurer, Save Another Youth, Inc.

Business.....**Kendrick Tilghman, 5Starr Enterprise**

Community Appreciation Legacy.....**Michael Eugene Johnson**

Family**Charles Howard Neverdon Jr./ Nephew**

SOLOPatricia Ross

WORDS OF COMFORT (2 minutes)

Government**United States Congressman Kweisi Mfume**
7th Maryland Congressional District

Faith Community**Reverend Doctor Kevin English**
Pastor, Open Bible Church

President, The Ministers’ Conference of Baltimore and Vicinity
Doctor Michael W. Jenkins

President, Universal Peace Federation of North America

Friend..... **Reverend Doctor Arnold W. Howard**
Pastor, Enon Baptist Church

Vice Chairman, Save Another Youth, Inc.

SOLO.....Sherry Hunt

THE GOSPEL MESSAGE.....Pastor Harold A. Carter, Jr.

THE PRAYER BENEDICTION.....Pastor Carter

RECESSIONAL.....“I’m Going Down to the River of Jordan”Clergy and Family

“A CHURCH DETERMINED TO LIVE WITH CHRIST”

“Without a vision, the people will perish” Proverbs 29:18

Pallbearers

Rev. Michael Hendricks Bishop Reginald Kennedy Jeffrey Lightfoot
Charles H. Neverdon, Jr. George Ray, III Michael A. Young

Interment

Kings Memorial Park
8710 Dogwood Road

Expression of Gratitude

The family gratefully acknowledges the many kind and beautiful expressions of sympathy and love shown during our time of sorrow. May God bless each of you for your understanding and comforting words.

Repast:

Brooks Clinton Event Center
9990 Liberty Road
Randallstown, MD 21133

Funeral Services Entrusted To:

March Funeral Home—West
4300 Wabash Avenue,
Baltimore, Maryland 21215
(410) 542-2400



STOP THE VIOLENCE - SAVE OUR YOUTH



FriendsOfRevRay.org

Baltimore City doesn't have to be the most dangerous city in the Nation!

Dr. Martin L. King
Had a Dream
Rev. Willie E. Ray
Has a Vision

Let's Make Baltimore the Most Peaceful & Safe City in the Nation!

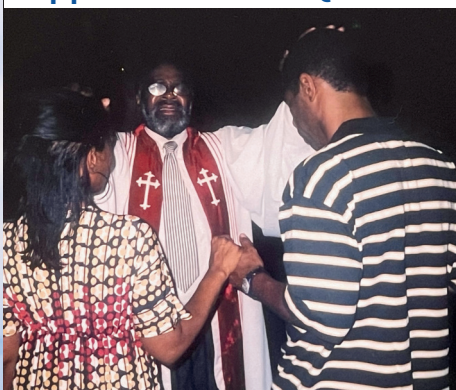
48 YEARS Ministerial and Community Youth Ministry Anniversary for REV. WILLIE E. RAY

Chairman and Founder of the Save Another Youth, Inc. and Stop The Violence Coalition

www.SayAnotherYouth.com

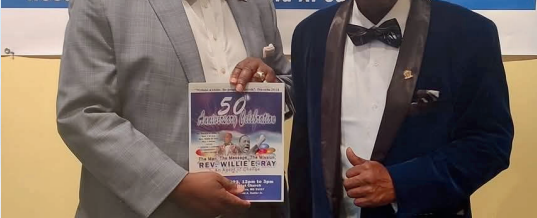
Safety House

...vision, the people will perceive ... bbs, 29:18
... Save another Youth Ministry ...
... other Youth and Stop the ...
... I ...



The Man, The Message, The Mission,
REV. WILLIE E. RAY
 An Evening of Change

October 14, 2017, 7:30pm - 9:30pm
 New Shiloh Baptist Church
 2100 N. Main Street, Baltimore, MD 21201
 Hosted by Rev. Dr. Gerald A. Caldwell



Your paragraph text



GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN



STOP THE VIOLENCE SUMMIT
A tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Hon. Pres. Nelson Mandela
Saturday June 7, 2014 2pm-5pm
At Coppin State University in the Talson Center
2800 North Ave. Baltimore, MD 21216

Due to the overwhelming number of homicides at least 80 people this year from January 2004-May this year
There will be keynote speakers, panel discussions, a seminar/workshop, human resources, vendors, job

Models
ETC.
**OPEN
POSITIVE YOU**







































