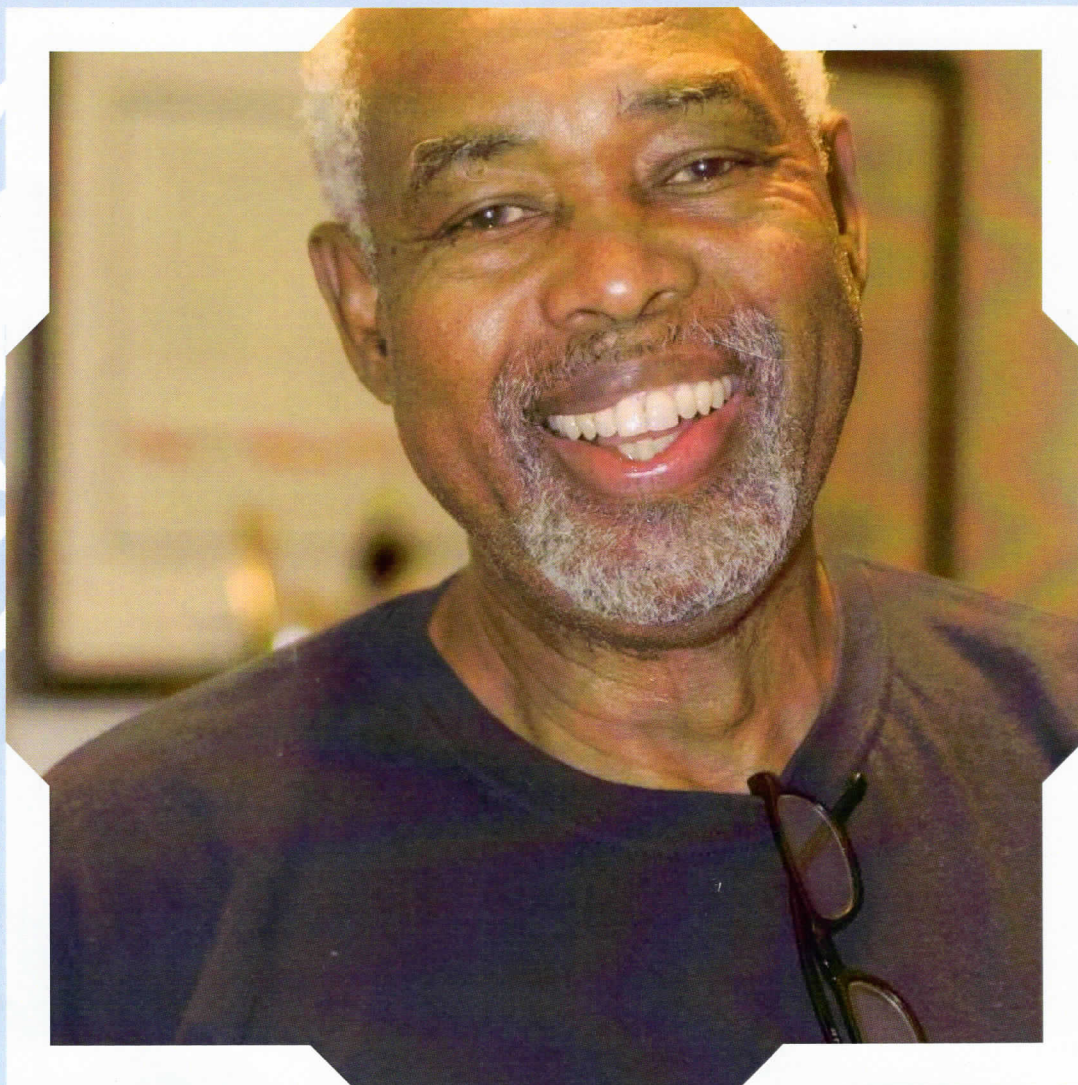


# *Celebration of Life*



*William "Bill" Thomas Small, Jr.*  
January 28, 1939-April 18, 2021

Thursday, April 22, 2021  
1 p.m.

Church of the Abiding Savior Lutheran  
1625 S. Alston Avenue, Durham, NC 27707







# *Order of Service*

*Pastor Paul Meyers  
Rev. Dr. Richard Dozier  
Officiating*

## **Gathering**

### **Musical Selection, "Amazing Grace"**

Mr. Jim Pinnix

## **Scripture Reading**

Old Testament: Genesis 1:9-12: Miss Nora Faye Hester

New Testament: Romans 8:1-4: Rev. Dr. Richard F. Dozier

## **Prayer of Comfort**

Rev. Dr. Richard F. Dozier

## **Homily**

Pastor Paul Myers

### **Musical Selection, "Precious Lord"**

Mr. Jim Pinnix

### **Obituary** (*Please read silently.*)

## **Prayers of the Church**

## **Commendation**

## **Benediction**

### **Recessional, "When The Saints Go Marching In"**

Mr. Jim Pinnix



# Obituary

William Thomas Small Jr., affectionately known as "Bill," began his illustrious life on January 28, 1939, in Wilmington, N.C., as the eldest son of the late William Thomas Small Sr. and Lila Elizabeth Murphy Small. He was a born leader. His first leadership role was that of big brother and mentor to each of his five siblings. He took this role very seriously and maintained very close relationships with all siblings and their families throughout his life. His outstanding leadership abilities were highly valued and utilized during his distinguished career as well as in his personal life.

He peacefully departed this life in his home on April 18, 2021 surrounded by loved ones.

Bill graduated from Williston High School (1956) and received his B.S. degree in Chemistry (1960) from North Carolina Central University (NCCU). He was a member of the track team and pledged Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity. As a freshman, he met the love of his life, Rosa Mae Williamson. They were united in Holy Matrimony on December 23, 1960.

He received his M.S.P.H. degree (1969) from the Department of Environmental Sciences and Engineering at the School of Public Health (SPH) at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (now the Gillings School of Global Public Health). He subsequently continued work in environmental health through the North Carolina State Board of Health (currently the Department of Health and Human Services), as an occupational health chemist in the Epidemiology Division, Occupational Health Section. A call for increased diversity raised by Black students at UNC, led him back to the university. In 1971, he was recruited to the UNC SPH to increase minority student enrollment in graduate degree programs. Within a year, he more than doubled the number of minority students at UNC SPH. He served as Assistant Dean for Students and then Associate Dean for Students, retiring from the School of Public Health in March 1999 as Associate Dean and Senior Advisor for Multi-cultural Affairs.

Upon his retirement, the minority student caucus annual conference keynote lecture was named in his honor.



# Obituary (cont.)

During his tenure at UNC-CH, Bill was active in numerous activities and programs with faculty, students and staff and received various awards and recognitions. He was recognized as UNC Student Organization Advisor of the Year (1992-1993), received the Harvey Elliot Beech Award from the UNC Black Alumni (1993) and the award for Outstanding Health Service to the Minority Community (1990) from the National Black Caucus of Health Workers of the American Public Health Association. In 1999 he received the prestigious C. Knox Massey Award, for Unusual, Meritorious, and Superior Service to the University of North Carolina.

Following retirement from UNC, he served as visiting professor at his alma mater NCCU in the Department of Health Education and at St. Augustine's College. At NCCU, he also coordinated the Minority Aging Project and served as assistant golf coach. At St. Augustine, Bill and the late Roamless Hudson, established the first undergraduate program in industrial hygiene and safety at a historically black college/university.

Bill was a relentless advocate for community health. He served as chairperson of the Durham County Board of Health and on the Board of Housing for New Hope, an organization dedicated to serving homeless individuals and families in Durham County. He was committed to his church family, Abiding Savior Lutheran, and active with the NCCU Alumni Association and James E. Shephard Sertoma Club. He cofounded the Black Men's Prostate Cancer Support group at Lincoln Community Health Center. He held leadership positions in countless nonprofit, community-based organizations.

Bill was passionate about the sea, sand and the woods. He enjoyed painting reflections of the natural world. His ideal day was spent outside in the company of his brothers. He was an avid outdoorsman and enjoyed exuberant fellowship with his Boating Club, Fishing Club, Hunting Club and Golf Clubs. In all activities, he was a teacher. He loved to challenge and inspire energetic young minds.



# Obituary (cont.)

He and Rosa shared a deep commitment to supporting students in a variety of practical ways, including financially, to ensure the achievement of their educational goals. In recognition of their unwavering student support, the Carolina Public Health Magazine (2010) wrote: "Small has never stopped believing in and working for public health initiatives, diversity and educational opportunities for minority students.....he and his wife recently have endowed The William Thomas Small Jr. and Rosa Williamson Small Scholarship. When the Scholarship was announced, they expressed their ongoing commitment in the following way:

We recognize the importance of instituting a strong financial base as vital to the School's program to attract and train talented minority students. Moreover, a solid, well-defined student financial assistance program is crucial to the School's ability to compete for the best and brightest students.... "We are excited about the potential benefits of this effort and encourage others of like enthusiasm to join with us in continued support of diversity-enhancing initiatives (Bill and Rosa Small)

Bill is preceded in death by his loving wife of 53 years, 'Rosa and his beloved eldest daughter, Sheila Faye Small Glover. He is survived by his daughter, Maria Jacqueline Small, son-in-law, Clarence Glover (Shelia Faye-Glover, deceased); "daughter" Gwynn T. Swinson; and "son" Stan Carter; two grandsons, Stephon and Troy Miller (Brianna), granddaughter Laila; Brothers, Joseph L. Small (Thenia), Donald R. Small, Walter D. Small (Scarlett), Julius A. Small (Linda); Sister, Velma Small (Richard); Sisters-in-law; Barbara "Babs" Lula Fryar (Joseph), Mary Alice Watkins (Willie, deceased), Mary Williamson (Samuel, deceased), 'sister' Almeta 'Toni' Jordan; three aunts, Altheria Smith Patton, Bessie Smith Dozier (Richard); Irene Fullwood; one uncle, Willard Smith, Jr. (Frannie), four godchildren, Akilah Ensley, Samuel Lee Jordan Jr., Audrey Jordan Wiggins, Karen Jordan Jarret and a dear friend, Grace Curtis. 'Uncle Bill', "Uncle Small", 'John Bull', 'El Toro,' is cherished by a plethora of loving family, friends and students.

**In Bill's spirit.....Always go outside. Play. Enjoy nature.**





# *Special Acknowledgements*

The Small family wishes to acknowledge the Church of the Abiding Savior Lutheran and the many heartfelt words of consolation, continued prayers, love, food, donations, calls, visits and flowers during our bereavement. Your prayers and expressions of kindness will help us endure. We are truly blessed to have the gift of our 'village' family and friends.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the following:

The NCCU Foundation, Inc., PO Box 19363, Durham, NC 27707  
Designating William T. and Rosa W. Small Endowed Scholarship  
(in the memo line)

Online memorial contributions may be provided at  
<https://www.nccu.edu/donation/>, including the  
William T. and Rosa W. Small Endowed Scholarship Fund in the  
additional gift designation box.

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Public Health  
William Thomas Small Jr. and Rosa Williamson Small Scholarship  
PO Box 309

Chapel Hill, NC 27514-0309

For online contributions: [www.giving.unc.edu](http://www.giving.unc.edu)

Ivy Community Center  
Designation: The Rosa W. Small Scholarship on the memo line  
4222 Fayetteville Road  
Durham, NC 27713

*Arrangements Entrusted To:*  
*Scarborough & Hargett Funeral Home, Inc.*  
*309 N. Queen Street, Durham, NC 27701*



The background is a light blue color with several white, stylized leaf or branch patterns scattered across it. These patterns are composed of multiple pointed, leaf-like shapes radiating from a central point, resembling a stylized fern or a branch with many small leaves. They are positioned in the corners and along the sides of the page, framing the central text area.

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