



Bishop William Wesley Morris

William Wesley Morris was born in Baltimore, Maryland and was educated in the Baltimore school system. He graduated from Ohio Wesleyan with an A.B. degree, Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary with a B.D. degree, Scarritt College with an M.A. degree with distinction, and Vanderbilt University with D. Min. degree.

While serving student appointments, Bill was ordained deacon in 1959 and elder in 1961. He served Bethany Methodist Church, Chicago, Illinois, Union Avenue Community Methodist Church, Chicago, Illinois; Christ Methodist Church, Chicago, Illinois; Stanley Methodist Church, Chattanooga, Tennessee; John Wesley United Methodist Church, Nashville, Tennessee and First United Methodist Church, Gallatin, Tennessee. He also served as an Associate Council Director, Council Director and District Superintendent of the Clarksville and Murfreesboro Districts, and on the General Council on Ministries.

On July 15, 1992, he was elected a bishop of the United Methodist Church at the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference, Lake Junaluska, North Carolina, where he was assigned to the Alabama-West Florida Area. In July of 2000, he was assigned to the Nashville Area. He served as president of the General Board of Pensions and Health Benefits from 2000 to 2004, and is currently a Trustee at Emory University.

He was married to the late Mary Head Morris of McMinnville, Tennessee, and they have four children: Loretta, Eva, Michael, and Mark. In 2006, he married Princilla Smart Evans.

This worship service was prepared by the Alabama-West Florida Annual Conference Worship Planning Committee, chaired by Rev. Janet Nabors.

Presiding Bishop: Bishop Paul L. Leeland

Preacher: Bishop William W. Morris

Music Leadership: Conference Mass Choir, Frazer Music Ministry, & Wayne Sigler

Partnership In The Gospel:
NURTURING DISCIPLES
Opening Worship - Frazer Memorial UMC - 7:00 pm

Prelude *Holy God, We Praise Thy Name* Timothy Wilson
arr. by Bish

Call to Worship *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty* Conference Choir
arr. by Mark Hayes

Welcome and Greetings Bishop Paul L. Leeland
Rev. Dr. Tim Thompson
Frazer Memorial UMC

***Hymn** *And Are We Yet Alive* UMH#553

***Prayer** Litany of Thanksgiving Ms. Iris McGehee
Capitol Heights UMC

Leader: Hear our prayer of gratitude:
People: **For rain forests and fertile plains,
For rugged mountains and mirrored lakes,
For frozen tundras and sandy deserts.**

Leader: Hear our prayer of gratitude:
People: **For misty mornings and cool evenings,
For flowers growing out of rocky crevasses,
For gentle breezes and driving rains.**

Leader: Hear our prayer of gratitude:
People: **For symphonies and blue-grass,
For polkas and high school concerts,
For operas and raps.**

Leader: Hear our prayer of gratitude:
People: **For the comforts of home,
For the embrace of love,
For the laughter of children.**

Leader: Hear our prayer of gratitude:
People: **For politicians who are honest,
For service people who smile,
For garbage collectors who are quiet.**

**the congregation is invited to stand*

Leader: Hear our prayer of gratitude:

People: **For teachers who inspire,
For parents who hug,
For friends who call.**

Leader: Hear our prayer of gratitude:

People: **For barrier free buildings,
For soup kitchens and refugee tents,
For Bible translators and health care workers.**

Leader: Hear our prayer of gratitude:

People: **For the Father who provides,
For the Son who redeems,
For the Spirit who empowers.**

Leader: Hear our prayer of gratitude:

People: **For the cleansing of the past,
For the challenges of the present,
For the hope of the future.**

ALL: For everything, O God, we give you thanks. Amen.

Scripture Genesis 1:11-12, 26-31 Rev. Paul Gourdine
Dexter Avenue UMC

Anthem *By Our Love* Conference Choir
Nockels/Keveren

Psalter Psalm 111 (p. 832) Rev. Deborah Born
Barrett Road UMC

Scripture 1 Thessalonians 5:11-24 Rev. Francis Castillo
Pensacola Hispanic Ministries

CCPI Presentation Mr. Dan O'Neill
Managing Director for Central Conference Pensions

The Central Conference Pension Initiative (CCPI) is a long-term solution that provides retirement financial security for dedicated church leaders and surviving spouses who would otherwise have little or nothing.

Your gifts this evening will help establish and fund pension programs in conferences where support is greatly needed.

Offertory Prayer

Miss Ellie Stafford
St. James UMC

Dear God,
We can't do everything, Lord.
We can't feed all who are hungry.
We can't reach all who are wondering.
We can't visit all the bereaved.
We can't heal all who are sick.
We can't teach all who are illiterate.
But we can do something, so we share these gifts,
confident that they will make a difference.
Use these gifts, O Lord, to nurture the body of Christ:
to sustain and aid those who preach the Gospel in our
Central Conferences,
to make the Church healthy,
to make it alive,
to make it caring,
to give it a heart for evangelism and mission,
to help it follow the direction of Jesus Christ, our Lord. **AMEN.**

Offertory *Everlasting God* Conference Choir
Tom Fettke

*Doxology

***Hymn** *All Creatures of Our God and King* UMH #62
verses 1,2,3 and 7

Scripture 1 Corinthians 3:6-9 Rev. Sung-Kuk Hong
St. James UMC

Sermon This Is the Day Bishop William W. Morris
Psalm 118:24

***Hymn** *Go Make of All Disciples* UMH #571

***Benediction** Bishop Paul L. Leeland

Postlude *Prelude & Fugue in G Major* Timothy Wilson
J.S. Bach

The prayers in this service were adapted from
Prayers for Worship, Liturgical Publications Inc., 1990.