

Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church

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The Rev. Tyson J. Parks
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The Rt. Rev. John R. Bryant
Presiding Prelate & Senior Bishop
Fourth Episcopal District

Rev. Larry D. Lewis, Pastor

March 17, 2017

To: The Family and Friends of Deacon Summerville:

“On the wings of death the soul takes flight into the land where there is no night; for those who believe what the Savior said, will rise in glory though they be dead. So death comes to us just to open the door to the kingdom of God and life evermore.”

In humble submission to the will of Almighty God, who does all things well, we the Pastor, Officers and members of Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church of Champaign, Illinois, with sadden and humble hearts, grieve with you today in the loss of your loved one. To the entire family, we extend to you our most heartfelt sympathy in this dark hour. We mourn with you for as Jesus said, “Blessed are they that mourn, for they shall be comforted.” We trust that your faith will be strengthened and you will find courage and comfort in the knowledge that earth has no sorrow that heaven cannot heal.

Deacon Summerville was here, not by chance, but by God’s choosing. God’s great hand formed him and made him the special person that he was. God compared him to no one else. He lacked nothing that God’s grace couldn’t give him. We don’t know how God chooses those He calls home, we only know that God is a perfect God and makes no mistakes. Though your hearts hold a deep sadness, may they also hold the blessings of the life you shared with Deacon Summerville and the love that will always be a part of you.

The entire church family of Bethel AME Church will continue to keep you in our prayers in the days to come. We love each of you and pray for your strength and healing. We believe that you will trust and depend upon the Lord Jesus Christ, who can and will heal all sorrow. May God bless and keep you and wrap His loving arms of protection around you as He walk with you through the valley of the shadow of death.

“Let your hearts be encouraged, being knit together in love, giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints.”

Prayerfully and humbly submitted,

Rev Larry D. Lewis

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