A Celebration of the Life of Reverend Charles Rice

Chaplain's Office

Ursinus College

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A Celebration of the Life of Reverend Charles Rice

Bomberger Auditorium
Ursinus College
May 1, 2017
A Celebration of the Life of Reverend Charles Rice
Monday, May 1, 2017

Organ Prelude
Ursinus College William F. Heefner Chair of Music

Processional

Opening Remarks
Rev. Leslie David Braxton
New Beginnings Christian Fellowship, Renton, Wa.

Congregational Hymn
Piano: Matt Bunczk '02

Old Testament Scripture
Micah 6:8
Rev. Nathan Coleman
Bethel Baptist Church, Phoenixville, Pa.

New Testament Scripture
Matthew 25: 31-45
Rev. Nathan Coleman
Bethel Baptist Church, Phoenixville, Pa.

Prayer
Rev. David Weatherspoon
Le Bonheur Hospital, Memphis, Tenn.

Solo
“Amazing Grace Will Always Be My Song of Praise”
Dawn Chavous '01

Reflections

Ursinus College Administration
Debbie Nolan

Ursinus College Faculty
Nzadi Keita
Christian Rice ’98

Ursinus College Alumni
Chanelle Houston ’06, Aakash Shah ’10,
Codey Young ’14

Ursinus College Student
Kelly Johnson ’17

Family
Rory Miott

Children
William Alonzo Rice and Carrie Rice
Friend

Anna Zay, Kimberton Waldorf School

Friend

Win Guilmette

Slideshow Presentation

Solo

“I Won’t Complain” Beatrice Wall
Cornerstone Baptist Church, Brooklyn, N.Y.

Special Tribute

Janel Reppert Rice ’00
Calvary Moravian Church, Allentown, Pa.

Special Tribute

Dr. Adam Clarke
Associate Professor of Theological Studies, Xavier University

Special Tribute

Paulette Patton

Special Tribute

Wynton Rice ’08

Special Tribute

Gregory Cunningham
Timothy Rice

Special Tribute

Jon Volkmer
Richard DiFeliciantonio

Acknowledgements

Mary Wiggins

Song

“Ride On King Jesus” Voices in Praise
Ursinus College Gospel Choir

Eulogy

Rev. Shaundra Cunningham
Swedish Medical Center, Seattle

Prayer of Comfort

Rev. Lawrence Aker
Cornerstone Baptist Church, Brooklyn, N.Y.

Solo

“It Is Well With My Soul” Rev. Gregory Cunningham
Progressive Believers Baptist Church, Columbia, S.C.

Benediction

Rabbi Michael Ramberg
Ursinus College

Organ Postlude
Reverend Charles Rice
March 29, 1957—April 25, 2017

The Rev. Charles Rice was an inspiring teacher, friend and mentor, and his impact will continue to be felt well beyond the many communities where he lived, served and worshipped.

Charles Rice was born on March 29, 1957 to the late William Rice and Selena Leneau Rice in Brooklyn, New York. He was the second of three sons. His oldest brother Jeffrey Rice preceded him in death. Charles was raised in faith at Cornerstone Baptist Church in Brooklyn, New York.

Charles, a lifelong learner and avid reader, received his educational foundations in New York City Public Schools. Charles always aimed high. He was honored with the Eagle Scout rank, the highest achievement in scouting. He was also a highly recruited high school fencer.

Charles continued his formal education as a 1979 graduate of the U.S. Coast Guard Academy with a Bachelor of Science Degree in chemical engineering. He earned his Master of Divinity degree in historical theology at Colgate-Rochester Divinity Schools, with doctoral studies at Syracuse University, with a focus on religion and culture.

Charles married Tonya Richardson Rice in July 2000, to this union two children were born: Charles Robeson Rice and Martin Baldwin Rice joining their older siblings: William Alonzo Rice, Carrie Elizabeth Rice, and Wynton Eberhard Rice.

Charles became chaplain at Ursinus College during the summer of 1997, serving the pastoral needs of the college community, overseeing the chaplaincy program and advising and counseling students. He implemented a Sunday worship program centered on diversity and pluralism, and sought vitality for all the faith groups on campus.

Among his various civic activities were leadership roles on the boards of the Wissahickon Charter School in Philadelphia, and the Charlestown Playschool, as well as, the Board of Directors of the Phoenixville Area Positive Alternatives Group (PAPA) in Phoenixville, Pa.

Charles’ death will leave a void among all who loved him. He will be remembered as a straightforward and supportive friend, pastor, teacher and mentor, and his faith, caring, humor and generosity will continue to inspire all who knew him.

Charles’ memory will be cherished by his family: his loving wife Tonya; daughter Carrie Elizabeth Rice; sons: William Alonzo Rice, Wynton Eberhard Charles Rice, Charles Robeson Rice and Martin Baldwin Rice; granddaughter: Sanaa Marshall; his loving mother Selena Leneau Rice; brothers Timothy (Dolly) Rice and Gregory (Lizzie) Cunningham; brother-in-law: Kenneth Richardson; aunts: Jimmie L. Osborne, Edna Newton and Dorothy Neal; goddaughters: Sherita (Macio) Freeman and Shaundra Cunningham; nieces: Saleena Rice, Brittany Cunningham, and Jakeema (David) Bascoe; nephews: Brandon Rice, Gabriel Smart and Ratali Richardson; as well as a host of cousins, family, friends and students.