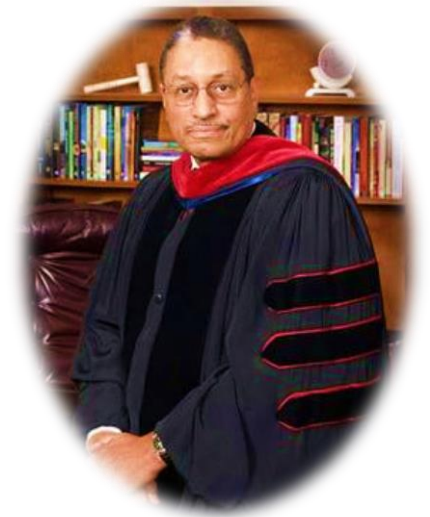


# *The Pastor's Pen*

**September 17, 2017**

Wallace Charles Smith, D.Min.  
Senior Minister



Sunday, September 17 is our Annual Service of Remembrance, the time when we commemorate members of our Shiloh family who, in the last year, have been called from labor to reward. A special feature of this commemoration is the recognition of families whose loved ones have transitioned to life with God in the celestial realm.

We want you to remember Paul's words in 1 Thessalonians 4:13-14, *But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who are asleep, that you sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so those who sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.* We also want you to be comforted by Paul's words in Hebrews 12:1, *Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us.*

Although our loved ones may no longer be present on this earthly plane, they remain among that great cloud of witnesses encouraging us to be strong, faithful and fully devoted to the God of our salvation. Our faith in God reminds us of the words our African ancestors sang long ago: *There is a good land, where every day will be Sunday, and the Sabbath will have no end. Thanks be to God the dead who die in the Lord will forever enjoy that special home.*