William A. Beckham, ‘54
Retired bishop of Upper South Carolina

The Rt. Rev. William A. Beckham, retired Bishop of the Diocese of Upper South Carolina, died Saturday, December 24. He was 78.

A memorial service was held December 28 at Trinity Cathedral, Columbia, South Carolina. Committal followed in the church cemetery.

Memorial gifts may be made to the Cange, Haiti, Fund of the Diocese of Upper South Carolina, or to York Place, the South Carolina Episcopal Church Home for Children.

Beckham was elected and installed as bishop in 1979. He served in that position until his retirement in 1994.

Ordained to the priesthood in 1955, he served parishes in Edgefield, Union, and Greenwood prior to being named archdeacon of the diocese in 1964.

He was a graduate of the University of South Carolina and Virginia Theological Seminary.

Beckham also served the wider Episcopal Church as trustee and chair of the New York-based Church Pension Fund from 1991 until 1997.


Survivors include his wife of 57 years, Harriet Wingate Beckham; a son and daughter-in-law, William A. Beckham, Jr., and Jeanie Beckham; son Stephen Andrew Beckham; and a daughter, Catherine Louise Beckham. He is also survived by seven grandchildren.

The bishop was predeceased by his son, Robert Michael Beckham.

[Source: The State newspaper, Columbia, South Carolina]