



## Rev Walter Hamilton Taylor

January 27, 1938 - December 2, 2017

LENOX, MA – The Very Reverend Walter Hamilton Taylor, 79, died on December 2, 2017 under the care of hospice. He died at Kimball Farms Nursing Care Center with his wife, Mary, at his bedside.

Taylor was born in Cincinnati, Ohio on January 27, 1938 to Robert W. Taylor and Jane Margaret Roe Taylor. He was a Magna Cum Laude and Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Kenyon College and earned a Masters of Divinity Degree with Honors from Virginia Theological Seminary. He was also awarded an honorary Doctorate of Divinity Degree from Berkeley Divinity School at Yale University.

Taylor's ministry focused on pastoral care and creating a supportive church community in which lay leaders were empowered to act and be successful in their ministry. He began his career as the Assistant Rector of Christ Church in Cincinnati, OH. He then served as the Rector of Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in Oxford, OH, Trinity Episcopal Church in Columbus, OH. and St. Luke's Parish in Darien, CT. He concluded his professional career as the Dean of Christ Church Cathedral in Houston, TX until his retirement in 1999.

Significant contributions of his ministry include his commitment to urban ministry and social justice in Columbus, OH. This focus of his ministry continued in Darien, CT with his commitment to Person-to-Person, a social service organization within St. Luke's Parish, his involvement in helping revitalize The St. Luke's Community Services in Stamford, CT, and leadership with others in helping establish the Stuart McKinney House, the first AIDS residence in the state of Connecticut. In Texas, Taylor helped foster the creation of New Hope Housing which pioneered the approach in Houston of using single-room occupancy housing coupled with intensive counseling and employment support services to help solve chronic homelessness among city residents.

Upon retirement, Taylor resided in Lenox, MA and Key West, FL. During retirement, he served as a consultant for Episcopal Health Charities of St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital in Houston, TX and the Episcopal Church Pension Fund. He and his wife, Mary, also worked

for the Episcopal Church Pension Fund as facilitators of the Planning for Tomorrow Conferences that were designed to help Episcopal clergy plan and prepare for retirement. Taylor was the part-time Winter Associate at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Key West, FL.

Taylor served on the Boards of Central Houston, Inc., The Downtown Houston Association, and the Berkeley Divinity School at Yale. He was also a member of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Stockbridge, MA, The Mount, The Lenox Club, and Delta Tau Delta Fraternity.

Taylor's personal passions included his family, gardening, reading, traveling, attending concerts at Tanglewood, and walking the trails in Kennedy Park in Lenox with Mary.

Taylor is survived by his wife of 57 years, Mary Wilson Taylor, of Lenox, MA. He is also survived by his sons William Wilson Taylor (Bill) of Pawling, NY and Peter Hamilton Taylor of Great Barrington, MA; his daughters-in-law Jennifer Luce Taylor and Stephanie Hertig Taylor; his grandchildren Wilson Taylor (Alicia Taylor) of San Francisco, CA, Allyson Taylor of Santa Fe, NM, Paige Taylor and Jane Taylor of Great Barrington, MA; his brother, Robert Taylor of Beaufort, SC.; and many nieces and nephews. Taylor was predeceased by his parents and his brothers, Stephen and Richard Taylor.

There will be a celebration of the life of Walter Taylor at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Stockbridge, MA on Friday, December 15, 2017 at 2:00 p.m. In lieu of flowers, donations can be sent to Hospice Care in the Berkshires.

# Events

---

**DEC** **Celebration of Life** 02:00PM - 03:00PM

**15**

---

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

Stockbridge, MA, US, 01262

# Comments

---



“ Thoughtfulness was one of Walter’s many attributes. He and Mary always called when they knew I , or Gene, was in the Hospital. Once when quite serious, after calling me, Walter left a message and a lovely prayer for Gene on our home telephone. We were both so touched. It still brings tears to my eyes. That message and prayer stayed on our recorder for a long time.

We are truly blessed to have had Walter in our lives. He and dear Mary have kept up with us all these years since he was Dean of Christ Church Cathedral.

He will be missed so much by so many who are grateful to have known him. Our deepest condolences and love to you, Mary, and all your family.

Barbara and Gene.

**Barbara Manly** - December 11, 2017 at 07:55 PM

---



“ I remember Uncle Walter as a gentle, caring man who was easy to talk to. He listened carefully to what was being said and always had a thoughtful or humorous response. He once said to my boyfriend (now my husband of 28 years), "Young man...What are your intention for my niece?" as he half chuckled but kept a serious face. The question was intentional but without judgement. I felt very protected by his words and was so grateful that he asked with such sincerity and directness. He had the ability to bring out the best in people as he himself set such a beautiful example. I have nothing but fond memories of Uncle Walt. We are all better to have have known him. God Bless.

**Valerie Smith** - December 05, 2017 at 09:23 PM