



## Reverend Dr. Tantsi Nathaniel Hercules

January 31, 1939 - December 15, 2020

Rev. Dr. Tantsi Nathaniel Hercules, retired pastor of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, a mentor to many, and friend to all – was born on January 31, 1939 in Trinidad, West Indies and was the eldest son of the late Rev. Thomas Josephus Hercules and the late Johanna Hunte Hercules.

Rev. Hercules received his primary and secondary education in the public schools of Chaguanas where he studied chemistry. Preaching his first sermon at age 10, he took his mother's house dress, converted it into a preacher's robe and pronounced a blessing on every friend who attended. At age 18, just prior to graduating from high school, he answered his call to preach and after four years of serious study, was ordained an Itinerant Elder in Trinidad, West Indies. In 1967, Rev. Hercules came to the United States to further pursue his education. He attended Allen University in Columbia, South Carolina where he earned a degree in English Literature. While at Allen University, he was the Dean of the Men's Dormitory and the pastor of Shady Grove A.M.E. Church in Blythewood, South Carolina. After graduating with this Bachelor of Arts degree in 1970, he attended the Interdenominational Theological Center at Turner Theological Seminary in Atlanta, Georgia. He received his Master of Divinity degree in Homiletics and Church Administration in 1973.

Upon graduation, he moved to Brunswick, Georgia where he pastored St. Paul A.M.E. for seven years. While at St. Paul, Rev. Hercules was employed

as a Social Services Director for the Brunswick Housing Authority. In 1975, he joined Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.®, Iota Gamma Lambda Chapter. He moved to Atlanta, Georgia in 1979 and was the chaplain at Morris Brown College. During his tenure at Morris Brown, he taught World Religions and served as a college counselor. On weekends, Rev. Hercules journeyed to Savannah, Georgia to serve as the pastor at St. James A.M.E. Church for one year. He was then transferred to St. Paul A.M.E. in Stone Mountain, Georgia for six months.

From 1982 until 1985, Rev. Hercules served as pastor of St. Paul A.M.E. Church in Macon, Georgia. In 1985, he became the pastor of St. Mark A.M.E. Church in Atlanta, Georgia, where he served as senior pastor for 17 years. While at St. Mark, the church's membership grew to over 1,000 parishioners. In 1989, Rev. Hercules received his Doctor of Divinity degree from Columbia Theological Seminary. While serving in Atlanta's Southwest community, he was very active in the Southwest Ecumenical Emergency Assistance Center and Quality Living Services (SWEEAC and QLS).

In 2002, Rev. Hercules became the senior pastor of St. Paul A.M.E. Worship Center in Lithonia, Georgia. During his pastorate there, St. Paul grew into a church devoted to serving the many diverse needs and concerns of the Lithonia and Stone Mountain communities. He was appointed to the Lithonia Public Housing Authority Board and served from 2006 until his health began to fail. Throughout his ministry, Rev. Hercules was elected many times as a delegate to the General Conference of the A.M.E. Church.

Rev. Hercules fathered five daughters, June Juliana Audrey, Arlene Andrea Pearl, Dawn Lillie, Portia Lea and Tanya Joye, who preceded him in death on December 15, 2010. After more than 60 years of service in the Christian ministry, Rev. Dr. T. N. Hercules was called from labor to reward on December 15, 2020.

Rev. Hercules leaves to cherish his memory, his wife Charley, his daughters June Smith of Newark, New Jersey; Arlene Fabian of Brooklyn, New York; Dawn Hercules of Dimona, Israel; and Portia Brantley (Clinton) of Stone Mountain, Georgia; 20 grandchildren; two great-grandsons; two brothers, Cecil A. Hunte and Paul Ladepoo Salanky of Barbados; two daughters by marriage, Nicole Jones of Stone Mountain, Georgia and Teneka Williams (William) of Atlanta, Georgia, five grandchildren by marriage, and a host of brothers and sisters in the ministry.

Homegoing Celebration for Reverend Dr. Hercules will be held at 11:00AM Wednesday, December 23, 2020 at Gregory B. Levett & Sons Funeral Home South DeKalb Chapel. Attendance is by INVITATION only. The Homegoing Service will be Live Streamed. Reverend Dr. Hercules will be laid to rest at Forest Lawn Cemetery 5755 Mallory Road, College Park, GA 30349.

Visitation will be held 5:00PM-8:00PM at our SOUTH DEKALB Chapel. The Visitation will be Live Streamed. Due to the COVID-19, a mask is required to enter the Chapel. Gregory B. Levett & Sons Funeral Home 4347 Flat Shoals Pkwy, Decatur, GA 30034 (404) 241-5656.

Please extend your condolences here on our website.

Due to the COVID-19, a mask is required to enter the Chapel.

# Cemetery Details

## Forest Lawn Cemetery

5755 Mallory Rd  
College Park, Ga

# Previous Events

## Visitation - Live Streamed

DEC **22**. 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

South DeKalb Chapel  
4347 Flat Shoals Pkwy.  
Decatur, GA 30034  
(404) 241-5656  
info@levettfuneralhome.com

## Homegoing Service (INVITATION only) Live Streamed

DEC **23**. 11:00 AM (ET)

South DeKalb Chapel  
4347 Flat Shoals Pkwy.  
Decatur, GA 30034  
(404) 241-5656  
info@levettfuneralhome.com

# Tribute Wall



“ *Gregory B. Levett & Sons Funeral Homes & Crematory created a [Click Here for Live Stream](#) in memory of Reverend Dr. Tantsi Nathaniel Hercules*



**Gregory B. Levett & Sons Funeral Homes & Crematory, Inc.** - December 21, 2020 at 10:59 PM



*From the Michael and Lisa Smith Family, we pray for God's grace and comforting mercy as he sees you through this time of bereavement. We share our sincere condolences to you and your family Soror Portia. May he rest in eternal peace. 🙏*

**Lisa Smith** - December 22, 2020 at 08:05 PM



“ *Rev. Linda Gattis lit a candle in memory of Reverend Dr. Tantsi Nathaniel Hercules*



**Rev. Linda Gattis** - December 24, 2020 at 09:35 AM

LB

“ *To the Hercules Family,  
Please know that you are in my thoughts and prayers as you go through this difficult time. In his pastoral care Rev. Dr. Hercules left an indelible mark on me. He was kind, encouraging and supportive. I am grateful to have known him. .*  
*Laurita Burley*

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**Laurita Burley** - December 23, 2020 at 03:06 PM

PH

*Still cannot imagine I lost my elder brother, my dearest friend, my guide and mentor. May he forever reign with Black African ancestors !  
Lobg live! Power to Black Africans !  
From Dr. Piankhy Ladepoo.*

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**PIANKHY LADIPO SOLANKE nee Hercules.** - November 11, 2023 at 10:03 PM

VM

“ *Pastor Hercules loved music and gave unconditional support to “The Pearls”, Woman’s Choir at St.Paul AME Worship Center. He supported me as their musical director, but most importantly, supported me in ministry. He asked me to bring the morning message shortly before he retired from St. Paul. He told me,” I want to hear you speak before I leave. He gave me an opportunity of a lifetime. I will be eternally grateful for that particular Sunday morning when I spoke about Unity In The Church! Pastor Hercules is and will be a strong force on my life. Thank God my path crossed with his. Much love to the family and most importantly, my Soror Charlie. Love to you all..*  
*Dr. Vanita Moon*

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**Vanita Moon** - December 23, 2020 at 12:47 PM

MB

“ *Marie Bankhead lit a candle in memory of Reverend Dr. Tantsi Nathaniel Hercules*



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**Marie Bankhead** - December 23, 2020 at 12:45 PM

MB

“ *Condolences to the Hercules family. Praying for strength for Sis Charley and the rest of the family. It is well with his soul.  
Love  
The Bankhead Family*

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**Marie Bankhead** - December 23, 2020 at 12:44 PM

CG

“ *My condolences to the family of Dr, T, N, Hercules. My thoughts and prayers are with you during this difficult time. The first day I came to visit St. Mark AME Church in 1994 Rev. Hercules welcomed me. I told Rev, Hercules how much he reminded me of my grandfather. His love for God and hymns. I visited him several times through out the years over at St. Paul in Lithonia. He will be missed such a warm and caring person.*

*Cheryl Garner*

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**Cheryl Garner** - December 23, 2020 at 12:43 PM

CU

“ I joined Saint Paul in 1992. I left for two years and returned to fellowship under the instruction, worship, and tutelage of Pastor Hercules in 2002. I love and miss him, Sister Charlie and family and wish them God's grace and peace. Five years ago he came back to Saint Paul and eulogized my mother for which I am eternally grateful.

*Candace Venning Ushery, Saint Paul A.M.E. Worship Center.*

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**Candace Venning Ushery** - December 23, 2020 at 11:50 AM

PW

“ My sincere condolences to my Sorority Sister Portia Brantley and her family. You are all in my thoughts and prayers. With Much Love,  
*Pamela D. Williams*

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**PAMELA Denise WILLIAMS** - December 23, 2020 at 07:47 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Reverend Dr. Tantsi Nathaniel Hercules.*



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December 22, 2020 at 07:03 PM

GM

“ *Prayers of comfort, strength, and peace to the family. A floral was sent to the family of Reverend Dr. Tantsi Nathaniel Hercules.*

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**Grant Chapel AME Church, Macon** - December 22, 2020 at 05:59 PM

JW

“ Jerry and Diana Wilson purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Reverend Dr. Tantsi Nathaniel Hercules.



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**Jerry and Diana Wilson** - December 22, 2020 at 05:40 PM

PS

“ From the Harrell family, we extend our sincere condolences to the Hercules family. May God give each of you strength and peace. I love you Soror Portia and will continue to keep you and your family in prayer.

*Patricia Scott-Harrell*

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**Patricia Scott-Harrell** - December 22, 2020 at 05:17 PM



“ Lovely One Spathiphyllum Plant was purchased for the family of Reverend Dr. Tantsi Nathaniel Hercules.



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December 22, 2020 at 03:42 PM

DB

“ He was a wonderful pastor and the reason I ended up joining St. Mark A.M.E. Church. I can vividly remember our "heated" discussions over New Joy and Praises Choir with laughter. He was a long time patient and friend. He will be missed. Condolences to you Charlene and the family. I will keep all of you lifted up in prayer.

*Dr. Catherine E. Burley*

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**Dr. Catherine Burley** - December 22, 2020 at 03:08 PM

LH

“ On behalf of Jamie, Linda & Mia Hutchins, we extend our sincere and most heart felt condolences to your beautiful family. May your heart feel the peace of God which passes all understanding. I love you Soror Portia.

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**Linda Hutchins** - December 22, 2020 at 12:10 PM

RJ

“ Rev. James Robinson Jr lit a candle in memory of Reverend Dr. Tantsi Nathaniel Hercules



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**Rev. James Robinson Jr** - December 22, 2020 at 09:19 AM

CJ

“ Eleanor and I send our prayers and condolences. Rest in Power. To God be the Glory!



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**Calvin and Eleanor Jones-Stevens** - December 21, 2020 at 09:44 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Reverend Dr. Tantsi Nathaniel Hercules.



December 21, 2020 at 05:28 PM



“ Rev. Hercules will truly be missed. He was our pastor at St. Mark for seventeen years. He became not just my pastor, but my friend. I will miss our talks and birthday celebrations. My sincere condolences to the family. I pray for your strength. There are also those who worked tirelessly with Rev. Hercules throughout his illness. Know that you will be rewarded for your good deeds. Rest well Rev. Dr. T. Nathaniel Hercules.



LaRonnia White - December 20, 2020 at 09:58 AM



“ Pastor Sharon and the Mt. Zion AME Church Family purchased the Crystal Cross Bouquet for the family of Reverend Dr. Tantsi Nathaniel Hercules.



Pastor Sharon and the Mt. Zion AME Church Family -  
December 19, 2020 at 09:31 PM



“ Condolences to the Hercules family. I will always remember Dr. Hercules as a very kind person and Pastor; a gentle giant!

Reba Williams - December 19, 2020 at 06:57 PM

JA

“ Josephine A. purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Reverend Dr. Tantsi Nathaniel Hercules.



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**Josephine A.** - December 19, 2020 at 02:54 PM



“ The Mercy Family of Atlanta, GA pray that you all will find comfort and peace during your loss. Dr. Hercules was a good friend of our father, the late Rev. T.Leander Mercy, Sr. We pray God will bless you all now and ever.

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**Cassandra Hill** - December 19, 2020 at 01:12 PM

RA

“ Rev. Richard A., Yancey lit a candle in memory of Reverend Dr. Tantsi Nathaniel Hercules



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**Rev. Richard A., Yancey** - December 19, 2020 at 10:24 AM

RA

“ My deepest sympathy to the Hercules family. My prayers are with you at this most difficult time 🙏

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**Rev. Richard A., Yancey** - December 19, 2020 at 10:22 AM

MW

“ Soror Charlene,  
Jay and I are so sorry for your loss! Please know that you are in our thoughts and prayers! Praying for Gods peace and comfort for you and the family at this difficult time.  
Jay and Soror Marchell Williams

Marchell Williams - December 19, 2020 at 12:54 AM

AR

Soror Charlene, my condolences to you and your family on the loss of your husband. I will keep you all lifted in prayer.  
From Soror Anderia Russell

Anderia Russell - December 19, 2020 at 09:16 AM

FW

Dear Soror Charlene,  
As you prepare for your husband's spiritual home going, please know my prayers are with you and your family. My prayer is that God will equip you with the emotional and physical strength needed for the days to come. Please know I am only a phone call away.

Much Sisterly Love,  
Soror Freda  

Freda Williams - December 19, 2020 at 06:04 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Reverend Dr. Tantsi Nathaniel Hercules.



December 18, 2020 at 08:13 PM

SC

“ So many fond memories of Rev. T. Nathaniel Hercules! From Morris Brown to St. Mark to St. Paul and every AME Conference! Even down in Trinidad with the WMS! He was Mr. AME! We shall miss him immensely! We are praying for you Sis. Charley Hercules!

*Sherell Crawford*



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**Sherell Crawford** - December 18, 2020 at 05:17 PM

NH

*We have so many memories with Rev.Hercules our Condolence to the family*

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**Norma Harper** - December 19, 2020 at 10:20 PM

JW

*Pastor Hercules was an extraordinary leader and man of faith. He and Charlie went all out to make their home the site of our wedding. We will always be grateful for his wisdom, counsel and warm spirit.*

*Jerry and Diana Wilson*

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**Jerry Wilson** - December 22, 2020 at 06:06 PM