

## **Rev. Joshua Tayloe MacKenzie**

Friends, it is my very sad duty to inform you of the death last night of The Rev. Joshua Tayloe MacKenzie of Elizabeth City, NC, the second rector of St. Stephen's.

Josh was born on November 25, 1930, married Elizabeth Earle Gary on December 20, 1952, and graduated from the Virginia Theological Seminary in 1961. He and Betty spent their entire career in North Carolina, beginning after Josh's ordination to the diaconate when he was appointed Deacon-In-Charge at St. Christopher's in Havelock, NC. He was ordained to the priesthood on February 2, 1962, so he had celebrated the 48th anniversary of his priesthood yesterday.

In 1965, he became Priest-In-Charge at St. Andrew's in Rocky Mount and served there until he was called as Rector of St. Stephen's in 1976. He and Betty left Durham in 1986 when he was called as Rector of Christ Church in Elizabeth City, where he served until his retirement in 1995. Thereafter, he continued to assist, especially with hospital visitations.

He took great pride in his work here at St. Stephen's and was terribly pleased to be invited back for our 50th Anniversary in November of 2008. I am especially pleased that he was able to receive the chancel "clergy chair" given in his honor and which currently sits on the Epistle side of the chancel, behind the lectern. This meant so much to him - I spoke with his daughter this morning and she said that afterwards he always talked about the 50th Anniversary and "his" chair at St. Stephen's. He was instrumental in overseeing the design and construction of the main church and of the stained glass windows. I am told that when the large-format color pictures of the windows were on display in Grand Central Station (NYC), that he stood there overcome, looking at them, and telling passers-by that those pictures were from his church in Durham, NC.

He was dearly loved and will be greatly missed. I have extended our condolences to Betty and the rest of the family, and am told that the funeral will be on Saturday at 3:00 PM in Christ Church, Elizabeth City. Please keep Josh and his family in your prayers.

May his soul and the souls of all the departed rest in peace.

-Bob

For information about or directions to Christ Church, Elizabeth City:  
<http://isite153826.web07.intellisite.com/333370.ihtml?entryid=191442>