



## **Biography and Funeral Service Details for Bishop William Folwell**

The Right Reverend William “Bill” Hopkins Folwell, second bishop of the Diocese of Central Florida, died on Monday, February 7, 2022 in Hendersonville, North Carolina.

Born in Port Washington, New York on October 26, 1924, he graduated in 1947 with a Bachelor of Civil Engineering degree from Georgia Institute of Technology. Upon graduation he was commissioned an officer in the Civil Engineer Corps, and served in the U.S. Navy from 1947-1949. Bishop Folwell and Christine (“Chris”) Elizabeth Cramp were married April 22, 1949. With his wife and their daughter Ann, Bishop Folwell moved to Chicago where he entered Seabury Western Theological Seminary in the discernment process toward ordination, graduating with a Bachelor of Divinity degree in 1953. A lifelong learner, he would go on to be awarded two Doctor of Divinity degrees in 1970 – from Seabury Western Theological Seminary and from the University of the South School of Theology. Bishop Henry I. Louttit, Sr., ordained Bishop Folwell to the diaconate June 22, 1952 and to the priesthood December 22, 1952 in the Diocese of South Florida where Bishop Folwell served as the Vicar of St. Peter’s Episcopal Church in Plant City (1952-1955). The Folwells welcomed their son Mark to the family in 1952. Bishop Folwell also served as the Priest-in-Charge at St. Luke the Evangelist Church in Mulberry (1954-1955). In 1955 the family moved to Louisiana where Bishop Folwell became the Chaplain at St. Martin’s School, New Orleans and the Vicar of St. Augustine in Metairie. In 1956, Bishop Folwell accepted a call to serve as the Rector at St. Gabriel’s Episcopal Church, Titusville; during his service there, he was elected to be the President of the Florida Episcopal Schools Association, a position he held until 1959. In that year, the Folwells’ third child Susan was born. All Saints Episcopal Church in Winter Park called Bishop Folwell to be the Rector in 1959, a position he held until his election and consecration as the second Bishop of Central Florida on February 9, 1970. Bishop Folwell served as bishop until his retirement in 1989.

Bishop Folwell is predeceased by his wife of 68 years, Chris, and survived by their three adult children and their families.

The funeral service with Celebration of the Holy Eucharist for Bishop Folwell will be held on Friday, February 11, 2022 at 11 a.m. at St. James Episcopal Church, 766 West Main Street, Hendersonville, North Carolina, 28792. The Right Reverend Gregory Brewer, bishop of the Diocese of Central Florida, will preside and the Right Reverend Frank Gray, retired bishop of Northern Indiana, will preach.

The service will be livestreamed on the church’s [YouTube](#) channel and [Facebook](#) page.

## **Bishop Folwell – Biography and Funeral Service Details cont.**

Following the service, all are welcome to greet the family in Stillwell Hall and to join them in remembering Bishop Folwell and celebrating his share in the Resurrection of Christ. Please be aware that masks are required indoors at all times, both in the Church and Stillwell Hall.

The Folwell family requests memorial contributions be made to St. James Episcopal Church in Hendersonville (address included above) or to the Hendersonville Rescue Mission, 639 Maple Street, Hendersonville, North Carolina 28793.

This link will take you to St. James Episcopal Church website where contributions can be made online by clicking the red “Give” button at the top of the page:

[www.stjamesepiscopal.com](http://www.stjamesepiscopal.com)

This link will take you to the Hendersonville Rescue Mission website where contributions can be made online by clicking the “Donate” button at the top of the page:

[www.hendersonvillerescuemission.com](http://www.hendersonvillerescuemission.com)

Plans for a memorial service for Bishop Folwell to be held in Central Florida will be announced at a later date.

*“Give rest, O Christ, to your servant Bill, Let light perpetual shine upon him.”*