

Charles Louis Perry, Jr.

October 24, 1953 – March 23, 2020

Charles Louis Perry, Jr. was a cherished member of several communities. He touched lives with his smile, his sense of humor, and the southern flavor that he brought to Seattle. He died of Covid-19 at Harborview Medical Center on March 23rd. He was 66 years old.

Charles was born in Raleigh, North Carolina, the son of Charles L. Perry Sr., a World War II veteran, and Della K. Parker, an educator and administrator. He was raised by his mother and his grandmother, Della May Parker, a nurse. As a boy, he absorbed Gospel lyrics and the King James Bible at the historic Martin Street Baptist Church. His music repertoire expanded to include R&B (Roberta and Aretha were favorites), Pop, Standards, and Eva Cassidy (who didn't fit a category). He mesmerized his friends with quotations and song throughout his life.

Charles attended all Black elementary schools and was among the first students to be bused to the previously all-white and unwelcoming Needham B. Broughton High School. Charles became a Licensed Practical Nurse and initially worked in small care centers. He nurtured patients at Raleigh's University of North Carolina Hospital for thirty years.

After the deaths of Charles' long-term partner, Frank, and his mother, he decided to move west. In 2008 after an early retirement, he drove across the country to Seattle with his Chow Mix dogs—Coco and Czar. Charles' knowledge of dogs was encyclopedic, and he was also passionate about wolves and Puget Sound's orca whales.

Charles joined Liberation United Church of Christ in 2014 after meeting two of its members at a white privilege workshop. Charles encouraged his Liberation family with his sincere interest in their lives and practical advice, including how to play the tambourine in rhythm, and how to memorize test information by putting it to music.

Charles shared laughter with many friends at CC Attle's. He was actively engaged in support groups at Lifelong AIDS Alliance, and in 2017 on a weekend retreat, he met a choir director, his future partner, Bert Gulhaugen. Charles had survived a diagnosis of HIV since 1988 and his filmed interview with the AIDS Memorial Pathway will be archived at the Seattle Public Library.

At his last Sunday at Liberation when social distancing was implemented and members refrained from hugging and holding hands, Charles anticipated trying times ahead for all and expressed that there are no guarantees in life. "Each breath is a gift from God," he said. Charles quoted the psalmist, "Where can I go from your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence."

THE CELEBRATION OF LIFE FOR



Charles

LOUIS PERRY, JR.

FUNERAL SERVICE

SATURDAY, JULY 18, 2020, 2:00 PM

M. B. DANIEL MORTUARY SERVICE L. L. C.

8418 S 222ND STREET | KENT, WA 98031

Order of Services

OPENING WORD GREETING

Pastor Jermell Witherspoon

MUSIC SELECTION

Be Still My Soul

INVOCATION

Tom Burton

OBITUARY

Tom Brown

MUSIC SELECTION / SLIDESHOW

I'll Remember You

Cow Bambina

Here and Now

Let it Be

SCRIPTURE

Paul Binneboese

Psalms 139: 7-12

New Testament Reading

TRIBUTES

Linda Gasparovic

Tributes from Family or Friends

Tom Brown

Bert Gulhaugen

Song at conclusion of his remarks: "Song Bird"

EULOGY

Pastor Jermell Witherspoon

Song to be cued during eulogy: "Do Lord"

MUSIC SELECTION

It is Well with My Soul

CLOSING PRAYER AND BLESSING

Pastor Jermell Witherspoon



Trish Rhinehart –

I was an usher at Liberation when Charles first started coming to church with Linda and Paul. During worship, I handed out tambourines and used one myself as I stood at the back of the church. Charles would watch me and laugh.

"You don't have rhythm," he told me.

From then on, he would exaggerate putting his hands together to help me find the beat or give me a thumbs up when I had found it on my own.

I will miss laughing and praising the Lord with Charles.

Paul Binneboese –

Charles was always quick with a smile and a greeting. There was something about the way he said "Well, hello there!" His North Carolina hospitality rang through every greeting.

I was impressed by how well Charles knew the Bible. He often had a Bible passage in mind related to whatever the topic of discussion might be. He was a man with a deeply grounded faith in God. The last scripture he shared with me was in reference to a certain political leader of ours.

No more will fools become celebrities, nor crooks be rewarded with fame. For fools are fools and that's that, thinking up new ways to do mischief. They leave a wake of wrecked lives and lies about God, turning their backs on the homeless hungry, ignoring those dying of thirst in the streets. And the crooks? Underhanded sneaks they are, inventive in sin and scandal, exploiting the poor with scams and lies, unmoved by the victimized poor. But those who are noble make noble plans and stand for what is noble...

Isaiah 32:5-8 (Message Bible)

Rev. Darrell Goodwin –

"Yesterday a member of my former church in Seattle passed away from the Coronavirus. I pray for his family. I pray for his church family. I pray for his wider community and the lives be touched with his smile, his sense of humor, and the southern flavor he brought to the Pacific Northwest.

I pray for strength for his current pastor Rev. Jermell Witherspoon. There is nothing normal about the time we are currently living through. Bro. Charles Perry we call your name as the ancestors welcome you home.

Unfortunately, death will touch many of our lives, we will experience loss in unprecedented ways; grief is and will struggle to find a release in quarantine and isolation.

Nevertheless, we will not be a people without hope. We will learn to love harder, to call more and to reclaim our humanity which this world has almost robbed in pursuit of the "American Dream."

"When peace like a river attendeth my way,
when sorrows like sea billows roll;
whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say,
"It is well, it is well with my soul"



Peter Bryant –

Charles had a particular love for dogs. He started with his first chow "Coshise" in North Carolina. From the first breeding he kept a little Chow he named "Czar" and a few years later he got another he named "Coco." Coshise passed away in North Carolina, but he brought the two younger chows with him to Seattle. He would cook for them every day to feed his "kids." He would go out of his way if he saw a dog on the street to say "hi." He would even help feed dogs of homeless people.

Charles was my best friend. He was kind, funny and generous. He would give his last dollar to help someone. He volunteered at community meal for recovering people by helping cook. We would talk about everything and anything. He loved to sit on the porch stoop to talk and say hi to anyone walking by. He could say a lot with just a look, a roll of his eyes and a smile. He loved music and we would listen for hours. He was a great cook and loved making his southern specialties.

His last words going into the hospital were "he knew he wasn't going to make it and that he loved me." I miss him every day.

Sharon Leach –

Charles, I want you to know that I love you so much. I will miss you talking about your mother, my Auntie. I know that she was waiting for you to come where she is in heaven.

Cousin Necssy –

Charles, this is your cousin Necssy. Anthony and I are going to miss you. Thank you for being in my life and Anthony's. You were very special to me. I loved your mother if she were my mother. I am so glad that you are with Auntie May. You rest now, and forever. We all love you.

Your special cousin, Nesscy from North Carolina