

Rt. Rev. Bentley, 93, dies June 12

The Rt. Rev. John B. Bentley, 93, second bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Alaska, then the Missionary District of Alaska, died June 12 in the hospital at Hampton, Va.

Burial services were read June 15 in St. John's Episcopal Church, Hampton.

Bishop Bentley attended the College of William and Mary and Virginia Theological Seminary. He received his doctor of divinity and a doctorate in sacred theology from General Theological Seminary, New York City. He was an assistant rector of Bruton Parish Church in Williamsburg, Va., from 1926 to 1930, when he left for Alaska.

A year later he became suffragan bishop serving the Rt. Rev. Peter Prindle Rowe, succeeding him as bishop in 1942.

While Bishop Rowe's headquarters were in Sitka, Bishop Bentley lived in Nenana, crossroads of transportation into the Interior and North country with railroad and steamer for Southcentral and Southeastern.

Bishop Bentley served Alaskans from Ketchikan to Point Hope, traveling by dog team, the riverboat *Godspeed*, on foot and later by plane.

In 1947, Bishop Bentley left Alaska to become director of the Episcopal church's overseas department in New York City and serve as vice president of the church's executive council. He retired in 1964, returning to his hometown of Hampton.

Bishop Bentley's wife, Elvira Wentworth Carr, preceded him in death. He is survived by three nieces.