

A Celebration of Life For Dr. Brenda Grant Davis



Thursday July 13th, 2023 Graveside

~ Ferncliff Cemetery 11:00AM

~ Rev. Dr. Verlin D. Williams,

Officiating



A Celebration of Life
For
Dr. Brenda Grant Davis

Rev. Dr. Verlin D. Williams, Pastor
Officiating

Hymn **“Amazing Grace”**

Old Testament Scripture **Ecclesiastes 3: 1-14 NLT**

Prayer of Comfort

Obituary **Soft Instrumental Background “May The Work I’ve Done Speak For Me”**

Reflections

Eulogy **Rev. Dr. Verlin D. Williams**

Interment **Ferncliff Cemetery (Hartsdale, New York)**

Ecclesiastes 3 NLT

1 For everything there is a season, a time for every activity under heaven. **2** A time to be born and a time to die. A time to plant and a time to harvest. **3** A time to kill and a time to heal. A time to tear down and a time to build up. **4** A time to cry and a time to laugh. A time to grieve and a time to dance. **5** A time to scatter stones and a time to gather stones. A time to embrace and a time to turn away. **6** A time to search and a time to quit searching. A time to keep and a time to throw away. **7** A time to tear and a time to mend. A time to be quiet and a time to speak. **8** A time to love and a time to hate. A time for war and a time for peace.

9 What do people really get for all their hard work? **10** I have seen the burden God has placed on us all. **11** Yet God has made everything beautiful for its own time. He has planted eternity in the human heart, but even so, people cannot see the whole scope of God's work from beginning to end. **12** So I concluded there is nothing better than to be happy and enjoy ourselves as long as we can. **13** And people should eat and drink and enjoy the fruits of their labor, for these are gifts from God. **14** And I know that whatever God does is final. Nothing can be added to it or taken from it. God's purpose is that people should fear him.

Dr. Brenda Grant Davis

Obituary

A retired educator and school social worker, Dr. Brenda Grant Davis was born to Julia Belle Grant and Richard Carter in Harlem, New York on June 13, 1945. She was baptized at Mt. Olivet Baptist Church (Harlem, New York), where she was mentored through her early youth Christian education experiences in Bible Study, as a Sunday School teacher and as a member of the Youth Choir. All church and educational activities were zealously encouraged by her maternal grandmother, Johnnie Mae Grant and supported by her mother and her maternal aunt, Edith Elizabeth Grant, as well as other family members. In addition, her grandmother consistently encouraged her to accomplish her goals with the mantra that she could do anything and, or accomplish any goal she set her mind to accomplish.

Educated in the New York City Public School System, after graduating from George Washington High School, Dr. Davis spent her undergraduate years at Western College for Women (Miami University of Ohio-Oxford, Ohio) with study concentrations in American History, Political Science and Intercultural Studies, and completion of an education field placement at Garfield High School in Hamilton, Ohio. After completing undergraduate studies, Dr. Davis was employed as a caseworker with the New York City Department of Social Services before obtaining a National Institute of Mental Health grant in the field of the Aging, which facilitated admission to New York University Graduate School of Social Work, where she obtained a Master Degree in Social Work. After professional service in the areas of adolescent residential treatment and clinical family treatment services, Dr. Davis returned to the field of education as a school social worker, briefly serving with the Yonkers Public Schools and the Mamaroneck Public Schools before joining the White Plains Public Schools (White Plains, New York), where she enthusiastically encouraged parental involvement and mentored elementary school age children to realize their full academic, emotional and social potential. She also devoted attention to further academic achievement, obtaining a Master Degree in Education and a Doctorate Degree in Education Administration from Teachers College, Columbia University.

After her twenty-five year tenure with the White Plains Public Schools, Dr. Davis continued to actively engage in community organizational activities which support young people. She served on the Community Board of the White Plains Community That Cares Coalition and on the Annual Budget Committee of the White Plains Public Schools. She was also engaged in activities with the Rotary Club of White Plains. An avid reader of mystery and suspense novels, she also enjoyed historical novels and was a member of the White Plains Historical Society. She loved people and thoroughly enjoyed meeting and engaging in cultural exchanges with people during her travel experiences around the world with People to People Student Ambassador Program and mission groups.

A 2005 short-term mission trip to Kericho, Kenya, through the sponsorship of the Lott Carey Baptist Foreign Mission Convention, where she was named “The Happy One”, AKA “Joy”, brought an epiphany of awakening regarding Dr. Davis’ ministry call to mission. She subsequently obtained the Master of Divinity Degree at Alliance Theological Seminary (Nyack College) and was enrolled in the Doctor of Ministry Program at Alliance, where she completed all necessary requirements with the exception of the dissertation, and received citation “...in honor and recognition of her accomplishments, her character, her deep compassion, and her studies....” It was her hope to empower people with awareness of their chosen status as beloved, redeemed, restored beings, who are reconciled to God, the Father, through Jesus Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit, who engages them in reconstructive opportunities to realize their fullest potential as stewards in a diverse, global society.

Before health issues curtailed her activity, Dr. Davis served as an Associate Minister and Chairperson of the Mission Ministry at Mount Olivet Baptist Church (Peekskill, New York—under pastors Rev. Dr. Adolphus C. Lacey and Rev. Dr. Robert E. Young). She served as Corresponding Secretary for the Parent Body of the Central Hudson Baptist Association, under the leadership of Moderator James E. Taylor (2005-2007). She was also privileged, under the leadership of Moderator Byron E. Williams Sr., to be the 2015 recipient of The Catherine Brown-Victoria Heath Award for service to the Central Hudson Baptist Association. As a member of the Working Churches of Westchester County and Vicinity (2002-2014), she served as Corresponding Secretary and was an honoree in 2007. Under the leadership of Rev. Dr. Daley Barnes and Rev. Dr. Edward O. Williamson, she served as Assistant Corresponding Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, and President of the Bethel Baptist Church Missionary Ministry (White Plains, NY), as well as coordinator and mentor for the Junior Missionary Ministry at the church. From her introduction in 2002, she enthusiastically rejoiced in every opportunity to serve with Lott Carey in missions, as well as convention classroom management and was a life member of the Lott Carey Women’s Auxiliary. Dr. Davis joined Union Baptist Church (White Plains, New York), under the pastoral leadership of Rev. Dr. Verlin D. Williams, in March, 2016, and served with the Flower Ministry at the church.

Survived by her beloved sister, Barbara Grant Richardson, her niece, Nicole Shaniqua Richardson, and her grandnephew, Brandon Grant Cruz, as well as a host of extended family members and friends, Dr. Davis leaves a legacy of love, faith, hope, joy, and peace. She expressed her desire that thoughts about her transition and celebration of life reflect her legacy and love of the joyful, adoringly spirited lyrical messages in “Jesus, You Are the Center of My Joy” and “O Happy Day”.

Miss Me, But Let Me Go!

When I come to the end of the road and the sun has set for me, I want no rites in a gloom-filled room. Why cry for a soul set free? Miss me a little—but not too long and not with your head bowed low. Remember the love that we once shared.

MISS ME—BUT LET ME GO.

For this is a journey that we all must take and each must go alone. It's all a part of the Master's plan a step on the road to home. When you are lonely and sick of heart go to the friends we know and bury your sorrows in doing good deeds.

MISS ME—BUT LET ME GO!

(Author Unknown)

