

Order of Service

Processional “Every Praise”
Selection “Lead Me, Guide Me”
Prayer Min. Valencia Moses
New Birth Community Church
Scripture:
Old Testament Rev. Earlene Battle
New Testament..... Rev. Gary Oldham
New Birth Community Church
Musical Medley “Jesus Is The Answer”
“Jesus Is All the World to Me”
Eulogy Rev. Jeffrey Rumlin
Recessional “How Great Is Our God”

Interment

Evergreen Cemetery

Repast

Immediately Following Interment
The Family will receive friends in the Church Fellowship Hall

Pallbearers

Grandsons
Family Members and Friends

Flower Attendants

Deaconess Ministry
Family Members and Friends

Acknowledgements

We, the family of Ms. Willie Mae Willis, are deeply appreciative for the many acts of expressions and kindness extended to us during our mom's illness and passing. In our time of bereavement, God has used each of you to minister to us in ways we could never repay. Our prayer is that God will return to you, a hundredfold, what you have given us in our time of sorrow.
Special thanks to the staff of Community Hospice.

~The Family

Arrangements in Care of:



4315 N. Main Street
Jacksonville, FL 32206
904-765-1234
Tyrone S. Warden, FDIC
www.tswarden.com

A CELEBRATION

of Life for Ms. Willie Mae Willis



Sunrise
May 11, 1927

Sunset
April 4, 2019

Service

11:00 AM, Saturday, April 13, 2019

Dayspring Baptist Church

5654 Dunn Avenue

Jacksonville, Florida 32218

Rev. Dr. Jeffrey K. Rumlin, Officiating

Obituary



Mrs. Willie Mae Willis transitioned peacefully to be with her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ on Thursday, April 4, 2019 at the Community Hospice Morris Center. She was born in Jacksonville, Florida and raised in Alapaha, Georgia by her aunt, Susie Nixon and great aunt, Priscilla Jackson. She accepted Christ at New Hope Baptist Church in Alapaha, Georgia.

She graduated from Alapaha Colored School. With a zeal for higher learning, she attended Albany State College in Albany, Georgia. While there, one of her extracurricular courses was singing in the College Gospel Choir. She returned to Alapaha, Georgia and became an Elementary School Teacher at her alma mater, Alapaha Colored School. She later moved to Jacksonville, Florida and became a kindergarten teacher at Dayspring Baptist Church which was then located Downtown on Jefferson Street under the direction of Mrs. Carrie B. Sloan and Mrs. Willie Lee Smith. Her continued employment was with the Duval County School System as a Substitute Teacher. Her final employment was with the Florida Department of Children & Families & Health and Rehabilitative Services. While working for the State she took a sabbatical to further her education. She attended Jacksonville University and the University of North Florida where she received her Bachelor of Arts Degree in Sociology. She retired from the Florida Department of Children & Families & Health and Rehabilitative Services on April 16, 1998 after 29 years of service.

She placed her membership with Dayspring Baptist Church and was a faithful member for over 60 years under the leadership of Rev. Cyrus A. Weaver, Rev. James A Oliver, and Rev. Moses Jarvis where she was the music director for Choir #4 and the Youth Choir. Currently under the leadership of Rev. Dr. Jeffrey K. Rumlin, she continued with the music ministry and sang in the Mass Choir. She was in regular attendance to Sunday School, Bible Study and the Senior Ministry. She was always willing to help and assist in any area without any hesitation.

Her parents, Harold & Sylvia Williams; great aunt, Priscilla Jackson; aunt, Susie Nixon; sister, Dorothy Simmons; son-in-law, Jimmy Jordan; and grandson, Desmond White preceded her in death.

Survivors include her children, Ira (Deborah) Willis, Janet Jordan and Sheryl (William) Walker; 7 grandchildren, Octavia Carter, Eugene White, III (fiancé Raisha Meadows), Ira (Jeanine) Willis, Jr., Ranota Willis, Michael Hicks, Mark Hicks and Ashleigh Willis; 4 great-grandchildren, William Michael, Alex Washington, A'via Carter and Elle White; 2 great great-grandchildren, Ke'Moni White and Desmond White, Jr.; sister, Barbara Long, New York City; brother, Harold (Eleanor) Williams, New York City; devoted nieces, Ida Smith, Constance Miller and La'Nita Simmons; devoted cousin, Kenneth Stoney; a host of nieces, nephews, great-great nieces and nephews, great-great-great nieces and nephews, cousins and many sorrowful friends; a devoted friend, Mrs. Lillie Ruth Blue; her drivers and riding partners were, Mrs. Aletrice P. Harris, Mrs. Yuwonga Thornton, Ms. Judy Bullock, Mrs. Mary Floyd and Deacon Randolph Bevel.

Our Mother Was Not the NORM !!

As small children growing up, we realized that our mom was not a normal mother because she wore so many different hats.

One hat was **Law Enforcer**. She explained the rules of her house, and she didn't entertain what was going on at Mary or John's house. She taught us to tell the truth, but when we didn't, she explained that when you lie, you will have to tell another lie to cover up the first one, and eventually you'll forget what lies you've already told, and eventually, the lie will find its way to the truth. All lying was dealt with severely. We had to go get the weapon, the switch from the chinaberry tree. It couldn't be just any switch, but it had to be a certain length and if you brought back a small one, you got popped with that one while going back to get another one. There were no child abuse laws during that time, so once you couldn't sit down on your behind, she knew you got the message and hoped that would deter you from lying again. We had to address adults as Yes Sir or No Sir, and Yes Ma'am or No **Ma'am**. If we started fussing or fighting, she made us apologize to each other by saying I'm sorry, and told us to always respect each other and put yourself in the other person's place; how would you feel if it were done to you, the Golden Rule. She explained in detail to each of us our purpose for going to school which was to learn, not to be popular or the class comedian. If for some reason she had to take time off from her job due to our mis-behaving in school, there would be consequences. If there was a problem with the teacher, our job was not to confront the teacher or have any conversation with the teacher because that was her job. The rule was the teacher is the adult and is right until she proved otherwise, but it wasn't our job to put the teacher in their place. She didn't allow any grumbling, talking under your breathe or a flip tongue. She had a mean back hand swing that cured you of that before you got the first word out. She did not call you three or four times, nor did she believe in repeating herself. She trained our ears to hear her soft voice calling, not only did we answer her on the first call, but we were up on our feet going to her when she called. Her rule, when I call you, that means I need you to come see what I want. Another rule was we had chores, make up your bed, pick up your clothes off the floor, empty the trash, wash the dishes, pick up the trash in the yard. We were not asked; we were told and it didn't matter whether we felt like doing it or not. She said that as long as she paid the rent, brought our food and clothes, paid field trip fees, we had no choice but to abide by her rules, and that wasn't up for discussion or debate.

Another hat was **Police Officer**. She inspected book bags daily to ensure that any unknown items, pencil, paper, any type of clothing or any other object that she didn't buy was not brought home. If this happened the item was swiftly returned back to the owner. Never figured out how she could tell about the paper, but somehow, she knew! At the beginning of each school year, she met with our teachers, provided her phone number to them and advised they should call her immediately if they had any trouble out of us; and she said this in front of us so that we knew if the teacher said she was going to call our mother, we knew that was one call we didn't want them to make.

Another hat was **Investigator**. She always asked about our day. We couldn't respond with a one liner's such as my day was good, I did my work, I had lunch. She asked what you did in detail to ensure that you were paying attention in class. She inspected our homework to ensure that it was done correctly and neatly, not just something scribbled on paper. Spelling word homework was taken seriously by her, she always made us give her a sentence using the word to ensure we knew what the word meant. She was always in tune and listening to our conversations especially if we mentioned that we liked a certain food or wished we could visit a city or country, that was a trip to the library. She always encouraged us to read, read, read.

Now, that we have children of our own.... We are doing our best to not be normal parents just like our mom was.

Praise God for Ms. Willie Mae Willis, our Mother! Thanks be to God for your love, dedication, patience and guidance.

“Our Family”

