

I Needed The Quiet

*I needed the quiet so He drew me aside,
Into the shadows where we could confide.
Away from the bustle where all the day long
I hurried and worried when active and strong.
I needed the quiet tho' at first I rebelled
But gently, so gently, my cross He upheld.
And whispered so sweetly of spiritual things
Tho' weakened in body, my spirit took wings
To heights never dreamed of when active and gay.
He loved me so greatly, He drew me away.
I needed the quiet. No prison, my bed,
But a beautiful valley of blessings instead -
A place to grow richer in Jesus to hide.
I needed the quiet, so He drew me aside.*

-Alice H. Mortenson

Pallbearers

Ivan L. Davis Stephen Wright
Alan Mathis Phillip Wright
Phil Mathis Hercules Mathis Jr.

Acknowledgement

The family of **Willa Ruth Davis** will remember and cherish the kindness of your many expressions of love, sympathy, prayers, messages and courtesies so graciously extended.

Thank you and may God richly bless you.

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Celebrating the Life of



Willa Ruth Davis

Sunrise
April 28, 1937

Sunset
June 4, 2013

Services

Tuesday, June 11, 2013 - 11:00 a.m.

MOUNT CALVARY MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH
231-251 Seymour Avenue
Newark, New Jersey 07050
Reverend Ralph Branch, Jr., Officiating

Obituary

Willa Ruth Mathis Davis was born to the late Reverend Dr. John L. and Willa A. Mathis in Tuskegee, Alabama on April 28, 1937. She was raised in a nurturing home with her sisters, (Rose, Effidora and Naomi) and brothers (Hercules, LeRoy and John) all whom predeceased her. Willa received Christ at an early age and lived a life in accordance with the articles of her faith.

Following the tradition of academic excellence established by her father, Willa Ruth was an outstanding student. She began her education as a child on the campus of Tuskegee Institute and continued there until she transferred her senior year and graduated from Jonathan Dayton Regional High School in Springfield, New Jersey. She earned her B.S. Degree in 1960 from Lincoln University, located in Jefferson City, Missouri, after only three years of study, with a dual major in sociology and psychology. This academic focus was not surprising given her skill at building trusting relationships and strong desire to help others achieve productive meaningful lives. In 1972, Willa Ruth continued her formal studies in Human Resources at Utah State University.

In 1957, Willa Ruth met a dashing young airman named Henry James "Jimmy" Davis in Brooklyn, New York where he was stationed. In 1960, Jimmy and Willa Ruth were wed and later started a family.

Willa balanced a fulfilling family life with a rewarding career in social work in Alaska, California, and New York City. While she enjoyed these assignments her career blossomed at the State of New Jersey Department of Labor working as a rehabilitation specialist with areas of expertise serving both elders and youth from 1959 until her retirement in 1999.

Willa Ruth enjoyed community work serving as the President of the National Organization Women (NJ Chapter), President of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority (Missouri Chapter) and President of the NJ Chapter of the National Council of Negro Women, perhaps her most cherished community work was with Mt. Calvary Baptist Church, Newark, NJ where she was a member for many years during which time she established an educational scholarship fund to develop the next generation of black scholars.

Willa Ruth battled illness over the past decade and each time she regained her strength and continued to maintain a full and rewarding life with her family and friends. When she was no longer able to easily travel she stayed connected through hand written letters, telephone calls and sending extraordinary gift baskets cherished by all who were honored to received them. On June 4, 2013, Willa Ruth departed this world peacefully at her home in Scotch Plains, New Jersey. She is mourned by her faithful husband of fifty-three years, Henry Davis; her two remaining children, Ivan and Tovia; four grandchildren and several nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends. She will surely be missed.

Order of Service

Processional	Clergy and Family
Hymn of Comfort	"Blessed Assurance"
Prayer of Comfort	Phil Mathis
Scripture Reading	
Old Testament - Psalms 90:1-10	Patricia Mathis (Niece)
New Testament - John 3:16	Kim Mathis-Jackson (Niece)
Musical Selection	
Remarks (two Minutes please)	Family and Friends
Acknowledgement/Resolution	
Obituary	Alan J. Mathis (Nephew)
Solo.....	"Tyrone Dunlap
Eulogy.....	Rev. Ralph Branch, Jr.
Recessional.....	Clergy and Family

Interment
Hollywood Cemetery
Union, New Jersey