

Celebrating
Alfreda P. Robinson

May 7, 1932 - January 14, 2016



Thursday, January 21, 2016 - 11:00 a.m.

First Baptist Church of Lincoln Gardens

727 Franklyn Blvd.

Somerset, NJ

Rev. Dr. DeForest B. Soaries, Jr., Senior Pastor

God's Garden

by Author Unknown

Plant three rows of peas:
Peace of mind
Peace of heart
Peace of soul.

Plant four rows of squash:
Squash gossip
Squash indifference
Squash grumbling
Squash selfishness.

Plant four rows of lettuce:
Lettuce be faithful
Lettuce be kind
Lettuce be obedient
Lettuce really love one another.

You will have no garden without turnips:
Turnip for meetings
Turnip for service
Turnip to help one another.

Water freely with patience and cultivate with love.
There is much fruit in your garden
because you reap what you sow.

To conclude our garden,
we must have thyme:
Thyme for God
Thyme for study
Thyme for prayer.*

*One of Alfreda's favorite poems



Order of Service

Presiding – Rev. Deborah L. Stapleton, Associate Pastor
First Baptist Church of Lincoln Gardens

MUSICAL PRELUDE..... Lawrence Allen

PROCESSIONAL

OPENING HYMN “Amazing Grace”

SCRIPTURES

Old Testament - Psalm 100

New Testament - 2 Corinthians 13:4-13

PRAYER FOR COMFORT

SOLOISTDeacon Calvin Williams

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS & EXPRESSIONS
READING OF OBITUARY

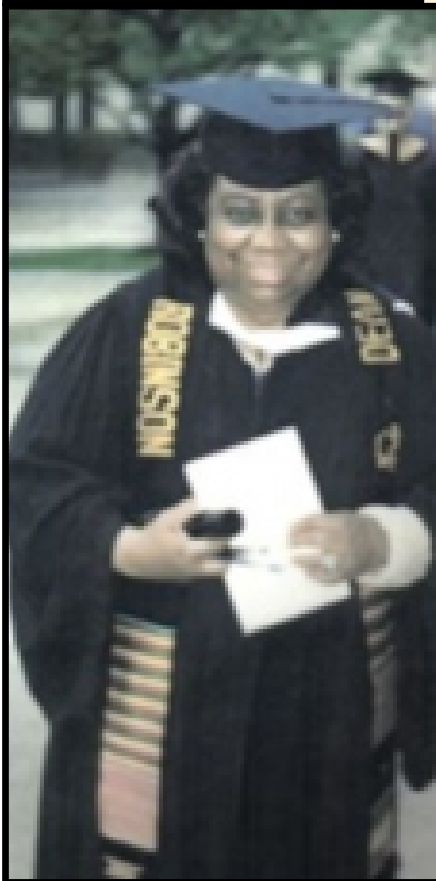
REMARKS..... Denise West
Kim Oserthoudt

SOLOIST..... Deacon Calvin Williams

EULOGYRev. DeForest B. Soaries, Jr., Senior Pastor
First Baptist Church of Lincoln Gardens

RECESSIONAL “I’ll Fly Away”

*Immediately following the service, everyone is invited for refreshments
in the Rev. Charlie H. Brown, Jr. Fellowship Hall*



Privilege to Serve....

Alfreda P. Robinson...

was born on May 7, 1932 in North Carolina to the late Freda and John Robinson. When Alfreda was about five the family moved to Newark, NJ. At the age of seven, she met Mary McLeod Bethune at Bethany Baptist Church's Summer Bible School Camp which shapes her life's journey.

Alfreda attended Warren Street Elementary School and Barringer High School in Newark, then earned a BA degree in Social Work from Upsala College, East Orange, NJ. In the late 50's, she was married then divorced.

Upon graduation from Upsala, she began her calling to help children and became a case worker for Essex County Social Service and Probation Department in the Juvenile Divisions. As a case worker, she was a caring, compassionate and attentive to her clients which was woefully lacking in the placement and follow-up of young minority children who were made wards of the State or youth who were marginalized within the criminal justice system.

She later sort a career in education to help empower young people of color to stem the end result she had witnessed while working at the Probation Department. She became the first black administrator at Douglas College for Women at Rutgers University of New Brunswick, serving as the Director of Financial Aid. During her tenure there, she helped increase the presence of minority women on campus and foster their unification in a Black Student Association and Alumnae Association.

In 1975 Alfreda's journey took an unexpected turn, when she became the Assistant Dean of Admissions and Financial Aid at the Rutgers Graduate School of Business and Management. Under the vision and guidance of Dean Horace DePodwin, PhD, she helped develop student growth strategies for the day, evening and international programs which has helped evolve Rutgers into the world renowned business institution it is today. Her recruiting strategies increased the student daytime population from under 100 to over 200, increasing the minority daytime population more than 14% and the minority evening program more than 20%. She was the first administrator in the Rutgers graduate school divisions to actively recruit Historically Black Colleges; thus, creating by the end of her tenure the largest mass of minority MBA graduates from one institution in the country. This was not the end of her efforts in fostering the advancement and success of minorities at the Rutgers Business School. In 1997, she retired from Rutgers but continued to work with the Black Student and Alumni non-profit organization - The Edmund L. Houston Foundation (ELHF) - which has awarded over \$500,000 in scholarships and fellowships to minority students who are and have attended Rutgers Business School since 1973. In 1997, the EIHF Alfreda P. Robinson Graduating Senior Award was established and presented to the graduating business school student of color with the highest GPA.

In 1952, Alfreda was inducted into Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.'s Delta Zeta City-Wide Chapter at Upsala College. As a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., at Upsala, she was Dean of Pledges (1953 & 1954). In 1954 she joined the graduate chapter, Kappa Sigma now known as North Jersey Alumnae Chapter (NJAC). Alfreda's over 60 years of Delta life was long and rich with initiatives

and service. She served as chapter president, on many chapter committees, and spearheaded initiatives. Her Delta legacy includes: NJAC 14th President (1965-1967); 1st Chair of the Scholarship Luncheon Committee (1962); Chair of the proposal committee for Direct Search for Talent 1974; 1975-1983 Board Member for Direct Search for Talent; and College Career Day 1st Chair 1975 (Program 1975-2012). It is important to note that the Scholarship Luncheon Committee, since 1962 has awarded over \$1,000,000 in scholarships, keeping her journey of service alive. In her efforts to continue to serve her community Alfreda joined a group of Deltas to organize and charter a non-profit group called North Jersey Minerva Inc. to further the educational opportunities for students of color. One of her last initiatives and involvement was the Delta Academy & G.E.M.S. (Growing and Empowering Myself Successfully) mentoring young girls of color between the ages of nine to eighteen in math and science, which began in 2004.

Alfreda's spiritual life was as varied and rich. As a child, she and her family were members of Bethany Church, Newark. Upon moving to East Orange and adopting her son Deshawn they joined Elmwood Presbyterian Church, East Orange. In search of a church home when the family moved to Edison, NJ she joined Willow Grove Presbyterian, Scotch Plains and then United Presbyterian Church of Plainfield. In her later years, she found a home at First Baptist Church of Lincoln Gardens, Somerset.

On Thursday, January 14, 2016 at 1:45am, Alfreda P. Robinson's journey of services ended at the Francis Parker Memorial Home in Piscataway, NJ and her full-time service at the right hand of GOD began. She leaves behind a loving son, Deshawn Robinson and sister, Betty Jean Robinson, her cousin, Ellen Robinson with a host of dedicated family, friends and a devoted sorority sisterhood.

In Gratitude

The family wishes to express our sincerest gratitude for the many acts of kindness shown to us during this difficult period. The memories of your numerous tributes, condolences, and expressions of support will sustain us for a very long time. Again, thank you to each of you.

Acknowledgements & Thank You

Special thanks for the expert management, love and care given by Mrs. Deborah Rather-Grubbs and Mrs. Doris Brantley. Thank you to the Francis E. Parker Memorial Home Staff and Caretakers.

Interment will follow the repast at

St. Gertrudes Cemetery
53 Inman Avenue, Colonia, NJ

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