

Celebration of The Life of
Patricia Margaret Hipplewith

Sunrise
August 1, 1953

Sunset
December 10, 2017



Saturday, December 16, 2017 - 10 am

EMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH
279 Lafayette Ave. • Brooklyn, New York
Rev. Anthony L. Trufant, Pastor



Reflections of Life

On August 1st, 1953, a star was born. **Patricia Hipplewith**, affectionately known as “Tricia”, “Trish”, and “Pat”, was the fourth child and second daughter of Lyndon Adolphus Hipplewith who migrated to Guyana, and Margaret Spraggins Hipplewith, who moved from Lynchburg, Virginia to Harlem, New York, where the two fell in love, exchanged vows and settled in Brooklyn to raise a family.

Beginning her life in Farragut Projects, Patricia attended Public School 7 on York Street until the first grade after which she and her older sister, Lynne, were bussed to school during a time of trending integration. Following elementary school, Patricia went on to attend John J. Pershing Jr. High School. She graduated from Fort Hamilton High School where she was a member of the Dance Club and voted in her yearbook as Most Likely To Act & Dance. An accurate prediction, dance was more than an interest but a true passion. As a youth investing time at the Rod Rogers Dance Studio and Double Image Theater, she studied Ballet, Jazz & Tap Dance. Honing her craft at the Clark Center of Performing Arts, she was instructed by famous jazz dancer/ choreographer Alfred “Pepsi” Bethel. While studying dance at Fournier Grego Dance Academy, she formed a lifelong friendship with fellow student, Ramona Candy performing plays together in the 1970s. Patricia enrolled in acting lessons under the great Frances Foster who told Patricia that she was “too dramatic”. One of Tricia’s fondest memories was performing at Lincoln Center with actor Lou Myers whom she adored. She also sang joyfully for years with the Lafayette Presbyterian Ensemble, delivering the word of God and performing in front of audiences across America. The choir even performed for the 42nd President of the United States of America, Bill Clinton.

In addition to her creative side, Patricia was a stylish, spirited and diligent woman of the modern age. After completing Business courses at New York College of Technology, she developed a high proficiency in Microsoft Office and graduated from reputable companies International Paper Company (1970s) and Mobil Oil (1990s), before finding a comforting environment at the educational publishing company McGraw-Hill.

As assistant to her beloved boss, Mr. Gary Hopkins, Senior President of Businessweek, in 1994, Patricia began her working relationship with Mr. Keith Fox who became her favorite employer and “work husband” when he was promoted from VP to President of Businessweek. Keith, his husband Tom and their families became Patricia’s extended family. Spending time at their home in Maine, Patricia enjoyed meditation and liturgical dance at their waterfront home. When Keith left McGrawHill to become CEO of Phaidon Publishing in 2014, he refused to leave without Patricia by his side. While adjusting to her new position at Phaidon, Tricia began to experience a loss of motor functions that would be life altering for her as well as all of those around her.

After ruling all else out, it was determined that Patricia had Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) also known as Lou Gherig’s Disease. With great resistance, she decided to retire early after symptoms rapidly progressed. Patricia would never take retirement easily, but her faith never wavered. She worked harder to prove she was capable of doing any and everything, continuing to dance with traveling group Mo Jazz, under the direction of friend Audrey Madison, and be a blessing to anyone in need. Even through fractured speech she recited the words of Hezekiah Walker that “Every Praise is to our GOD!”

After completely losing her ability to talk, she participated in the 2016 NYC ALS walk and her team “TRICIA’S VOICE” raised over \$15,000 towards finding a cure for ALS. Local news channel 12 even visited her home and did a featured segment about Patricia and her indomitable spirit. She remained a church greeter with the Open Arms Greeters Ministry of Emmanuel Baptist Church. This proved that even without being able to communicate verbally, her welcoming smile, hug and energy set the tone for all entering her church home every Sunday. After all she’d been through, not even being able to put two hands together to pray, she still loved God more than ever.

On the morning of Sunday, December 10th, 2017, Patricia made her peaceful journey at home in Brooklyn, New York. Patricia is preceded in death by her father, Lyndon Adolphus Hipplewith and mother, Margaret Spraggins Hipplewith; her aunt Shirley, her brother Bernard Hipplewith and beloved cocker spaniel Bonnie.

Patricia is survived by her siblings, Lynne and Dale, Aunt Delores, her cousins from the Hipplewith, Smith, O’Connor & Saunders families. Although she never bore children of her own, she considered nephews and nieces – Jacques, Lyndon, Byron, Adolphus, China, Karen and Elon – as her own. She leaves behind the extended family she has established in lifelong friends Gerri Houston, Deborah Nance, Corliss Lee-Henley, Dyanne Wilson, Debbie McBeth, Ramona Candy, Sondra Barksdale, Frances Canty and Cassandra “Sandy” Rosa, as well as colleagues, employers, CEOs, neighbors, dance partners, fellow church greeters, members, chorale mates, doctors, home attendants, care-givers, Willoughby Walk security staff who she handed peppermints out to on her way to work each morning, and countless lives that she has touched.

The heroic legacy of Patricia Margaret Hipplewith is a sentiment shared in author Joanne C. Stein’s quote, “Life may not be the party we had hoped for, but while we’re here we might as well DANCE!”

Order of Service

Prelude “I Found Love”
BeBe Winans

Processional “Blessed Assurance”

Invocation Rev. Tyrone Monro

Hymn of Praise “Jesus Your The Center of My Joy”

Scriptures
Old: Ecclesiastes 3:1-4
New: John 14:1-6

Words of ComfortOpen Arms Greeters Ministry
Ramona Candy
Patricia’s Nephews: Jacques & Aldophus
Keith Fox
Alicia Santos

Prayer of Comfort Rev. Tyrone Monro

Dance Selection

Acknowledgement of Condolences Deborah Nance

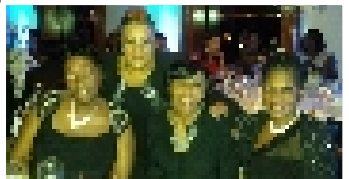
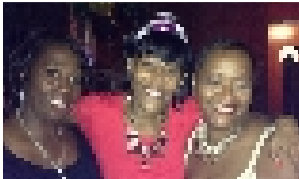
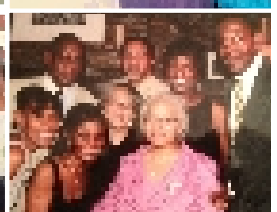
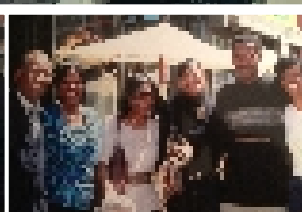
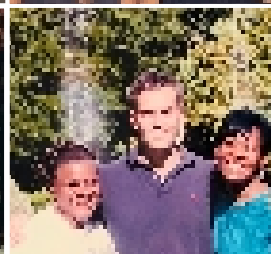
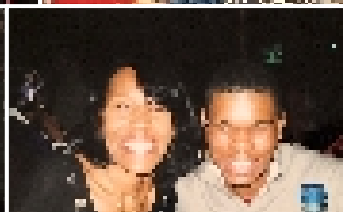
Obituary Lyndon McCray

Hymn of Consolation “I Hope You Dance”
Min. Sessomo Parks

Eulogy Rev. Tyrone Monro

Recessional “Every Praise”

Interment
Pinelawn Memorial Park
Farmingdale, New York



A person wearing an orange t-shirt and dark pants is captured in a dynamic dance pose on a rocky, grassy shoreline. The background shows a rugged coastline with large rocks and the ocean under a clear sky.

Life may

not be the
party we had
hoped for but
while we're
here we
might as well

dance.

Acknowledgement

The Family of Patricia Margaret Hipplewith would like to extend their heartfelt appreciation for the love, care and support extended to her during the most challenging period of her life. Special Thanks to: Reverend Anthony Trufant, Minister Jocelyn Mann, Dr. Lang's Medical staff, Dr. Rachel V. Kramer, Mrs. Casandra Rosa, Ms. Tatiana Garcia and her Faithful Friends and Family.

Professional Services Provided By

Trinity Funeral Service, LLC

23 East Second Street • Mt. Vernon, NY 10550

Phone (914) 314-5876 Fax (914) 206-3843

TrinityFuneralService@yahoo.com

