



Mrs. Anita F. Gaynor

October 6, 1934 - January 7, 2020

Jayne Anita Furr was born in Lexington, Kentucky on October 6, 1934 to the late Reverend Samuel H. and Mary Elizabeth Furr.

While playing in front of their home on Thomas Street at the age of five, Jayne was visited by God. She didn't understand this visitation, but was not afraid.

About five years later, she acknowledged her belief in God and was baptized at Pleasant Green Missionary Baptist Church. Between the ages of eight and twelve, she enjoyed the Girl Scouts, the Loyal Workers, the Y.W.C.A. and the Children's Choir. She played the piano in Sunday School at Pleasant Green, at her father's church, Phillips Memorial CME Church and at Cadentown Baptist Church.

Jayne Anita graduated from the old Dunbar High School as Salutatorian in 1952 with special honors in English. She graduated from Livingstone College in 1956, Magna Cum Laude. As an active student throughout her college experience, she was a member of the Octet, Choir, Drama Club, Student Council, Dorm House Council and was inducted into the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

After college, she taught three years at Robert R. Moton High School in Danville, Virginia. There she sponsored the final Senior Class and duplicated her prom activities and decorations which she had experienced at Dunbar.

This school was the first to close during the Civil Rights movement. She received a Scholarship to study music at the Boston Conservatory. While in Danville, Jayne taught for six years at J.M. Langston

High School where she met Carl Lee Gaynor. The two later married and soon gave birth to Christa Lynette. While residing in Danville, they attended Calvary Baptist Church where she directed the Men's Choir. When Carl joined IBM, they moved to Cocoa Beach, Florida where she taught Junior High School for one year before Carlton Lamont was born. She wished that she had known about the women of Mathematics who worked for NASA so that she could have joined them. In Florida, she served as the Church Hymn Director and as a wedding soloist.

Carl, Anita and family were moved to New York where she taught at Nyack High School for seven years, taking one year off while welcoming Creighton Lerone. During that year, a school bus was hit by a train and several students died. While at home, Anita tutored students during this sad time. In Nyack, she was the pianist for the Pilgrim Baptist Church Gospel Choir, Payroll Director for Nyack Day school, and Girl Scout sponsor.

When Carl was transferred by IBM to Lexington, Anita felt that God had brought her back full circle to help and enjoy her mother and to share the fruits of her labor with the youth of her hometown. She enjoyed 27 years of teaching mathematics at Henry Clay High School; a school which she could not attend when she was a student herself. She had the pleasure of working with wonderful youngsters at Henry Clay, raising her family with Carl, serving as the pianist at PGBC, Pilgrim Baptist, Evergreen, Bethel in Maysville and Phillips Memorial CME Church. She was afforded the opportunity to sing in various choirs to include: The Donovan Singers, the M L King Choir, Simmons Unity Choir, and the Lexington Singers.

Anita's last academic endeavor involved being a volunteer math workshop teacher at Yates Elementary School for 4th grade boys. Although hesitant to work with elementary boys, she thoroughly enjoyed it and found herself still learning from them in her 80's just as she had with high school students.

Anita F. Gaynor was preceded in death by her mother and father; her sister Barbara; and her brother Sam.

She leaves to mourn her passing her husband of 59 years, Carl Lee; three

children, Christa (Rev. Mark) Dunn of Lexington, Carlton (Amy) Gaynor of Louisville, and Creighton (Katie) Gaynor of Iowa City, Iowa; five grandchildren, Marc Alexander Dunn, Miles Anthony Dunn, Grace Anita Gaynor, Sarah Elizabeth Gaynor, and Rachel Lynn Gaynor; nieces, Patricia (Tony) Callaway of North Carolina, Donna (Arthur Hall) Furr-Hall of New Jersey, Dionne Winstead of Texas, Deidra (Reginald) Phillips of Texas, and Barbara Ann (Michael) Washington of New Jersey; nephews, Glen (Kay) Birch of Lexington, Rowlando (Sandy) Birch of Danville, Tolbert A. (Gwendolyn) Furr of New Jersey, and Samuel H. Furr, Jr. of New Jersey; as well as a host of great-nieces, great-nephews, cousins and special friends.

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 18. 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

HISTORIC PLEASANT GREEN BAPTIST CHURCH
540 W. MAXWELL ST
LEXINGTON, KY

Service

JAN 18. 12:00 PM - 1:30 PM (ET)

HISTORIC PLEASANT GREEN BAPTIST CHURCH
540 W. MAXWELL ST
LEXINGTON, KY

Tribute Wall

HK

“ *Anita and Carl have been the best neighbors ever... We have lived across the street from each other, for close to 40 years... Anita will be surely missed by all... Prayers to Carl and the kids...*

*Herman Wayne Kidwell & Lucy Kidwell
1405 Cantrill Court
Lexington, KY 40405*

Herman Wayne Kidwell - January 17, 2020 at 05:56 PM