



MY DEAR FAMILY

*I did the hardest thing today,
By closing my eyes and slipping away,
I did not want to leave you, I had more Love to sow,
But GOD offered me a home, and with GOD, I wanted to go.
Those memorable times, that we all shared,
was so much fun because we cared.
My departure is not where our traditions will end,
Oh no, with You, new Matriarchs begin.
Carry on in Love, Integrity and in Faith,
Moving forward in GOD's amazing grace.
Enjoy Life and be happy, as much as you can,
Until that day, we are all together again.*

Floral and Pall Bearers

Family and Friends

In Gratitude

The family wishes to express its sincere gratitude to Pastor Barrington Johnson, clergy and various ministries of New Zion Missionary Baptist Church of Charlotte, NC, for your acceptance and support during Mary's life and her passing.

The family also wishes to express its sincere gratitude to Pastor Chavis Davis, clergy, musicians, and various ministries of New Providence Baptist Church of Mt. Holly, NC for accommodating the family and supporting us in this time of loss but also the celebration of Mary Alice Henderson's life.

Thank you to a host of friends for your love and support.

We acclaim the worth of her life, lovingly lived, and we offer prayer of gratitude as we entrust our own lives to God for the precious gift of the memories, she has left behind to comfort us.

Arrangements Were Entrusted to:

Gregory Funeral Service, Inc. | 601 North York Street
Gastonia, North Carolina 28052 | 704-867-4364
www.gregoryfuneralservice.com

Celebrating A Life Well Lived

Ms. Mary Alice Henderson

Sunrise
August 9, 1930

Sunset
July 9, 2023



New Providence Baptist Church
1104 Old NC 27 Highway
Mount Holly, North Carolina
Reverend Chavis Davis, Senior Pastor
Reverend Barrington Johnson, Presiding
New Zion Missionary Baptist Church
217 W. Todd Lane, Charlotte, North Carolina



<h1>Order of Service</h1>		
Presiding		
Prelude		Sacred Music
The Processional		Family and Ministers
The Invocation		Pastor Barrington Johnson
Selection		New Zion Hymn Choir
Scripture Readings		Pastor Chavis Davis
Old Testament		
New Testament		
The Prayer of Comfort		
Remarks (2minutes)		Family and Friends
Selection		Mrs. Veronica Green Balkum
THE READING OF ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS		
READING OF THE OBITUARY (Silent reading)		
SELECTION		Mrs. Veronica Green Balkum
EULOGY		Pastor Ramond Patterson
RECESSIONAL		Minister and Family
SELECTION	“By and Bye”	Lead by Sonja Wylie Accompanied by Hymn Choir

INTERMENT
West Creek Cemetery
Mount Holly, North Carolina

Obituary and Reflections “Life Owes Me Not, I Have Lived...”

Mary Alice Henderson was born to the late Mr. William Howard “Taft” Henderson and the late Mrs. Pearletha Gregory Henderson, on August 9, 1930 in Mt. Holly, North Carolina. Mary was the namesake of her grandmother, Mary Alice Henderson. Mary was the eldest of eight children.

As a child, Mary was a hard worker. As an adult, Mary was organized and kindhearted. Mary loved to celebrate her birthdays and Christmas. She looked forward to family reunions with her sister, Dorcus, who would travel from New York to meet up with Mary in New Jersey, on a train back home, to attend reunions in Mt. Holly together.

In the early years of her life, Mary attended Rankin School, a one-room schoolhouse where she was taught by Ms. Frenzola R. Cousar until the school moved to the Freedom community, located on Hawthorn Street, in Mt. Holly, NC.

Mary was raised attending Shiloh AME Zion Church of Mt. Holly, NC, where she would lead the way for her grandmother, from their house, through the woods. Mary later joined New Providence Baptist Church of Mt. Holly, NC, at a very early age, where she accepted Christ as her savior. There was nothing like church.

Mary completed her elementary grades at the Colored School of Mt. Holly, NC, then she went to high school in Belmont, NC. In 1947, Mary completed twelfth grade, being the youngest in her class, finishing at sixteen years of age. She always wanted to attend North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University to become a nurse, but her parents couldn’t afford the tuition. She later moved to Elizabeth, NJ and was able to further her education and career. Her experience got her a job with Woodbridge Development Center in Trenton, NJ. She retired from Woodbridge Development in 1990.

Mary was blessed by the birth of her daughter, Joyneta Walker, in 1952, whose father was killed in the Korean War.

After moving to New Jersey, Mary met and married the love of her life, Benjamin Kendrick, in 1961. They were married for many years.

Mary sang in the Mount Moriah Baptist Adult Choir in Linden, NJ, and with the Armstead Group Quartet, lead by Founder and Director, Maude Armstead, before joining a Church of God in Christ.

Mary became a faithful member of Holy Mountain Church of God in Christ of Rahway, NJ, which was started as a ministry in a home. Mary worked there as an Usher, Announcement Clerk, President of the Pastor’s Aide and a Sunday School Director. Mary would walk to the church from her home just across the street. Mary always loved and supported her church and her pastor.

After living in New Jersey for 60 years, Mary returned home to Mt. Holly, and was cared for by her daughter, Joyneta Walker, for the last thirteen years of Mary’s life. Mary was an active participant at the Bette Rae Thomas Recreation Center.

Mary became a full-fledged member of the New Zion Missionary Baptist Church in Charlotte, NC in around 2019. Throughout the COVID -19 shutdown, Mary continued to enjoy the pastorship of Rev. Barrington Johnson, and the various ministries who faithfully checked-in on her.

“Better is one day in your courts than a thousand elsewhere; I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of the wicked.” Psalm 84:10

“This was Mary’s favorite Bible scripture. She stated many times that she went North to make a better life for herself and for her family. She served, toiled, rejoiced, and had sorrows, yet onward she went. She indeed more than earned her final night’s repose.”

-Joyneta Walker, Loving Daughter

Mary Alice Henderson is preceded in death by her parents, her sisters Donnie and Dorcus, and her brothers: James Williams (“JW”, Sly Fox”), Ezra, Ben Taylor, and Herbert.

The surviving family includes Mary’s only daughter, Mrs. Joyneta H. Walker of Charlotte, NC; her only grandson, Walter R. Henderson (Roslyn) of Center, AL; one great-granddaughter, Joi R. Henderson of Atlanta, GA; one sister, Ms. Myrtle Nixon of Trotwood, OH; a dearly beloved cousin, Mrs. May R. Henderson-Anthony of Mt. Holly, NC; and many relatives including numerous nieces and nephews, as well as many friends.

