



**In Loving Memory of
WILLIE MAE BEARD**

May 21, 1927 – December 22, 2020



Viewing/Visitation

E.F. Boyd & Son - Warrensville Heights, OH
Wednesday December 30, 2020 4:00 pm – 7:00 pm

Homegoing Church Service

East Mt. Zion Baptist Church – Cleveland, OH
Livestream: www.eastmountzionbaptistchurch.org/wmb1
Saturday January 2, 2020
9:30 am Wake and 10:00 am Service
Rev. Brian A. Cash, Pastor



OBITUARY

Willie Mae (McMullen) Beard was the 8th of 11 children born to Shannon and Emma (Miller) McMullen (3 siblings from Shannon and deceased wife) on May 21, 1927 in Choctaw County (Ackerman), MS. Her mother died while Willie Mae was young. She gave her life to Christ at an early age, attended Sunday School, and was very involved in church activities at Pilgrim Rest Missionary Baptist Church. Willie Mae loved the 4 Gospels, Psalms, and Proverbs.

She completed high school at Choctaw County Training School and attended Rust College in Holly Springs, MS, receiving a B.S. degree in Elementary Education. She taught elementary school 5 years in Webster County, MS, before teaching 35 years for the Cleveland Board of Education at various elementary schools including Bolton, Lafayette, and Miles. Willie Mae also served as a substitute teacher in the Warrensville Heights City School District. Retiring from Tremont Elementary and continued to substitute teach until she was 80 years of age.

Family and community were important to Willie Mae. She enjoyed her youth and college days and her time in Memphis, TN with Cousin Lorene. In Memphis, she met her husband Clenton (Clint), and married into the Beard/McDonald family on May 7, 1957 after a two-year courtship. Immediately after marriage in Hernandez, MS, they moved to Cleveland, OH where lifelong friendships were formed. Willie Mae's nephews and niece and Clenton's brothers and sisters joined them in Cleveland. Willie Mae and "Clint" established strong roots, in Glenville, on 112th Street and then Warrensville Township, which later became Highland Hills. In the Warrensville Heights schools, she was an active parent.

Willie Mae and Clint affiliated with Greater Friendship Baptist Church, before becoming members of East Mt. Zion Baptist Church under Rev. William M. Downs. They were faithful members of Group 5, and Willie assisted in the Nursery and Vacation Bible School. A dedicated Christian, Willie Mae enjoyed encouraging young people to live well, follow the teachings of Jesus Christ, and get an education. She is remembered for her sweet, cooperative spirit.

Willie Mae McMullen Beard peacefully transitioned from labor to reward on Tuesday, December 22nd in her home. She looked forward to continuing her life with Christ and family members who preceded her in death. In her passing, she leaves to mourn: son Anthony Dewayne Beard, daughters Cynthia Denise Beard and Rochelle Lynnette Beard (all of Cleveland); sister Hattie B. McMullen and brother Shannon (Alee) McMullen (both of Ackerman, MS); sisters-in-love Gertie L. (Freddie) Johnson and Drucilla Young, and brothers-in-love Bennie (Irona) Beard, Willie B. Beard; and a host of dear nephews, nieces, cousins and friends.



ORDER OF SERVICE

Organ Prelude
Bro. Todd Thompson

Processional
Ministers and Family

Musical Selection
Just a Closer Walk with Thee

Scriptures
Old Testament – Psalm 46:1-5
New Testament – John 14:1-6

Prayer

Musical Selection
It is Well with My Soul

Resolutions and Acknowledgements
Church Clerk

Special Remarks and Reflections
Family and Friends
(2 minutes)

Reading of Obituary

Musical Selection
Order My Steps

Eulogy
Rev. Brian A. Cash

Recessional
Ministers and Family

Organ Postlude
Bro. Todd Thompson

Pallbearers
Nephews
Deacons

Flower Bearers
Nieces
Deaconesses

INTERMENT
Evergreen Memorial Park
5505 Northfield Road
Bedford, OH 44146



Reflections on Our Faithful Mother

Great is thy faithfulness
 Lord God our Father and our Creator
 Thank you for our wonderful and blessed Mother
 Born in MS in 1927, 93 years she has walked the earth.
 A strong, yet gentle woman,
 Both proud and humble,
 A woman of character, high moral standards,
 "A special lady"
 God-directed, God reverencing;
 Forgiving, loving and caring
 She sought and implored others also
 To do the right thing,
 To follow and turn to Jesus,
 To know and love the Lord our God,
 To value people,
 To treat others with respect,
 And as you yourself want to be treated.
 Mom valued education-
 With her sister Hattie B.,
 Willie Mae earned a bachelor's degree in education.
 She was a teacher to many, both by her example and also in the classroom;
 Her students knew she cared and wanted the best for them,
 And she worked hard on her own time, to be effective in the classroom;
 She lived well, laughed often, loved much and prayed through it all.
 A mother's love will live in our hearts forever.

Submitted by Cynthia Beard

Favorite Scriptures:

Psalm 46:1-5, Psalm 90:10-13, Matthew 21:21, Proverbs 6:3

Just a Closer Walk with Thee
 It is Well With My Soul
 Order My Steps in Your Word

Favorite Color:

Purple



In Gratitude

Our home healthcare team – Allison, Candace, Heather, Joy
 Hospice of Western Reserve
 Mrs. Adams
 Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.
 Ardorous 37
 Ol' Skool Girlz
 Antioch Baptist Church
 Our prayer partners/circles
 Dr. Pamela Murphy/Metrohealth
 Windsor Heights/Woodlands of Shaker
 Highland Hills Village

Acknowledgements

We gratefully acknowledge and sincerely appreciate the acts of kindness, thoughts, prayers, and sympathy extended to us during this time of loss and bereavement. We thank you for the outpouring of love and warm consolation. Your calls, visits, thoughts, cards and well wishes mean more than words can say. And we appreciate the churches, schools, neighbors, educators and the "village" that raised us. May God's blessings follow you wherever you go.

*Lovingly,
 Anthony, Cynthia, and Rochelle*

Final arrangements entrusted to



*B. E. F.
 Boyd & Son inc.*