

Celebrating the Life
of
Brenda Noel Johnson

Sunrise
June 28, 1946

Sunset
May 21, 2021



Thursday, June 17, 2021

Family Hour: 10:00 a.m.
Service: 11:00 a.m.

From the Heart Church Ministries®
Annex at 5055 Allentown Road
Suitland, Maryland 20746

Bishop John A. Cherry, II - Pastor

Obituary

Brenda Noel Johnson, affectionately known as “Bren,” quietly transitioned to her eternal rest on Friday, May 21, 2021. A loving, devoted daughter, sister, and aunt; committed and loyal friend; and virtuous Woman of God, Brenda was born on June 28, 1946, in Washington, DC. She was the second of four children born of the union of Francis C. and Elnora L. Johnson.

Brenda attended a mix of public and private schools, graduating from St. Cyprian’s Elementary and Sacred Heart Academy High School, thereafter, matriculating at Howard University, where she majored in Education/Recreation. Upon graduation from Howard, she embarked on a career in education with DC Public Schools (Birney Elementary, Miner Elementary, J.O. Wilson Elementary, Capitol Hill Cluster Schools – Watkins Elementary, Peabody Elementary; Stevens Elementary and Thompson Elementary) where she taught for 40 years.

It is impossible to fully capture the scope of Bren’s impact and legacy. An inspiration both in and out of the classroom, with a perpetually curious intellect, Brenda was a particularly kind, loving and giving woman who cared deeply about education and the development of the whole child. A Master Teacher, Brenda was a teacher of teachers, constantly being observed by instructors at all levels, including university professors; serving as a demonstration teacher; supervising student teachers; and providing model lessons for new instructors.

Entering her classroom, one could hear the soothing strains of classical music, see the vast array of books, the striking display of print in all forms, and know that you had entered a serene and ordered literary world, an environment in which children, regardless of background, could achieve their maximum potential. Leading her students, as a conductor might an orchestra, Bren helped her children turn their language into pictures, then scribbles, phonetics, words, sentences, paragraphs, pages, and eventually journals. Her students left her kindergarten classroom as young readers. Bren was particularly adept at reaching children, augmenting their self-esteem, imparting critical skills, and leading each child to the limit of his or her individual ability.

A transformational presence, Brenda became the first Capitol Hill Cluster teacher to mainstream hearing impaired students, championing the capacity and aptitude of each of her students. Often described as “the kind of teacher every child ought to have,” Brenda received many accolades and awards for her exemplary achievements. Each year, countless parents would request that their child be assigned to Brenda’s classroom. She was a truly gifted, passionate, and committed educator.

Throughout her life, Brenda was an avid traveler, traversing the country coast to coast, and enthusiastically exploring places like Japan, France, Italy, Hawaii, and multiple Caribbean islands. A voracious reader, Bren often drew inspiration for her trips from the numerous magazine and newspaper articles that she diligently dog-eared and saved.

Obituary (continued)

With an infectious laugh and selfless heart, Brenda endeared herself to those she met, establishing both deep and abiding friendships, and making new friends wherever she went. Most important to Brenda was spending time with her family. Always the giver, Brenda always put other people first, giving of both talent and treasure. She took deep pride in imparting her love of education and reading to her nieces and nephews and later her great-nieces and nephews. The young ones hung onto her every word, her contagious enthusiasm encouraging them to discover, and Brenda proudly trumpeting their successes.

Brenda gave her life to the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ at an early age. She rededicated her life in 1991, continuing her years of service and spiritual growth as an active member of From the Heart Church Ministries. She enjoyed working in the Intercessory Prayer Ministry, Membership Care Ministry, More than Conquerors, and Helps Ministry – supporting homegoing services and repasts. Her love for the Lord was great and sincere, and she displayed that love in all her actions. She radiated light, love, and compassion, sharing these gifts as she touched the lives of all that knew her. Everyone had value to Brenda. This was particularly evident during the past three years as she battled illness. Brenda took great delight in encouraging her friends and all those with whom she came in contact, especially those who were ailing.

Brenda leaves to cherish her memory: siblings, Francis C. Johnson, Jr., Minister Bonnie Rampersaud and Daniel Johnson; nephews, Kevin Johnson and Krishna Rampersaud (Skylar); nieces: Leslie Bond (Dwayne), Colette Chichester (Mark), and Danielle Carter; great-nephews: Jarami Bond, Kamin Bond, Jamar Chichester, Mark Chichester, and Alexander Rampersaud; great-nieces: Imani Bond, Megan Chichester, and Amira Rampersaud; and a host of treasured relatives and friends.

Brenda was preceded in death by her parents Francis C. and Elnora L. Johnson.



Order of Service

Invocation

Scripture Reading

Old Testament: Psalm 34:1-8
New Testament: John 14:1-6

Prayer of Comfort

Selection *FTH Psalmist*

Acknowledgements

Remarks

Mrs. Brenda Davis, Best Friend
Mrs. Amy Dinan, Co-Worker
Mrs. Colette Chichester, Family Representative
Mrs. Leslie Bond, Niece

Song of Preparation *FTH Psalmist*

Message of Hope *Minister Bonnie Rampersaud*

Call to Christ

Benediction

Recessional



The Builder

Author Unknown

*A builder builded a temple.
He wrought it with grace and skill;
Pillars and groins and arches
All fashioned to work his will.
Men said, as they saw its beauty,
“It shall never know decay.
Great is thy skill, O Builder!
Thy fame shall endure for aye.”*

*A teacher builded a temple
With loving and infinite care,
Planning each arch with patience,
Laying each stone with prayer.
None praised her unceasing efforts.
None knew of her wondrous plan,
For the temple the teacher builded
Was unseen by the eyes of man.*

*Gone is the builder’s temple,
Crumbled into the dust;
Low lies each stately pillar,
Food for consuming rust.
But the temple the teacher builded
Will last while the ages roll,
For that beautiful unseen temple
Was a child’s immortal soul.*





A Message of Gratitude

From Brenda Noel Johnson

Each piece of a quilt has its own color, pattern, texture, and design with unique beauty and charm. But when the individual pieces of a quilt are sewn together, they become one magnificent work of art. Just as the pieces of a quilt have unique beauty, the people whose lives have touched mine have unique personalities, talents, and skills. You have blessed me in countless and immeasurable ways.

I give thanks for each of you and enfold you in prayer, holding you in a special place in my heart.

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Flower Bearers

Family and Friends

Acknowledgement

The family of Brenda Noel Johnson acknowledges with sincere appreciation, the many comforting prayers, messages, floral tributes, and acts of kindness shown during this time. We especially want to thank our Pastor, Bishop John A. Cherry, II and the From the Heart Church Ministries family for your continued support, assistance, and expression of love. May the Lord Jesus Christ bless and keep you in perfect peace.

Special Thanks

We are deeply grateful for the skilled, loving, and compassionate care provided by Dr. Valerie Lee and the wonderful nurses at Sibley Memorial Hospital.

***Services Entrusted to:
Hodges and Edwards Funeral Home
Suitland, Maryland***