

Celebrating the Life of
Cora Helen Johnson Williams

Sunrise: July 4, 1947

Cora Helen Johnson
WILLIAMS

Sunset: November 17, 2019

Saturday, November 23, 2019

2:00 p.m.

Mount Moriah Baptist Church
Starr, South Carolina

Celebrating the Life of Cora Helen Johnson Williams

Reverend Charvis K. Gray, Presiding

Pastor, Mount Moriah Baptist Church

- Prelude.....Soft Music.....Mr. Tim Bell
- Processional.....*I Want My Lord To Welcome Me*.....Mount Moriah Combined Choir
- Words from Scripture
- Old Testament.....Reverend Kelly Simmons, Jr.
- New Testament.....Reverend Bobby Lee
Pastor, Rock Hill Baptist Church
- Prayer of Comfort.....Reverend Dr. Rufus H. Mitchell
Pastor Emeritus, Mt. Moriah Baptist Church
- Solo.....Minister Kimberly Johnson
- Remarks.....(Limit to 3 minutes).....Reverend Bobby Lee, *Pastor, Rock Hill Baptist Church*
Deacon Marion Clinkscales, *Mt. Moriah Baptist Church*
Elder Harry Humphrey, *Westside Class of 1965*
Mrs. Mary Mattress, *WMU President, Mt. Moriah Baptist Church*
- Saxophonist.....*Oh I Want to See Him*.....Mr. R. Michael Alexander
- Formal Resolutions.....Ms. Valerie Berry
Illustrious Commandress, Azzam Court No. 184
Mrs. Jaye Massey
Representative, Walker-Norris-Collier-Edwards Family
- Saxophonist.....*Goin' Up Yonder*.....Mr. R. Michael Alexander
- Eulogy.....Reverend James E. Massey
Pastor, Holly Springs Baptist Church
- Recessional.....*I'm Free*.....Mount Moriah Combined Choir

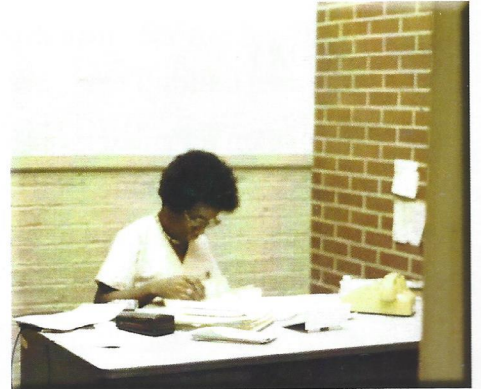
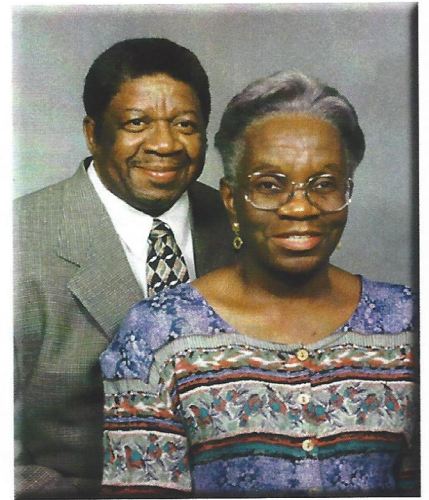
Graveside Services will be conducted by Reverend James E. Massey

Mount Moriah Baptist Church Cemetery

Repast.....Mount Moriah Baptist Church Fellowship Hall

Acknowledgement

We, the family of the late Cora Helen Johnson Williams extend our sincere gratitude for your many prayers, words of comfort, support and love during this time of bereavement. Special thanks to M.D. Brown Funeral Home, Inc. May the God of Our Fathers continue to bless and enrich your lives.



Cora's Life and Impact

Cora Helen Johnson Williams, age 72, transitioned peacefully to her eternal home on November 17, 2019. She was the only child of the late Reverend Ulysses and Annie Bell Evans Johnson. She is survived by her husband Louvell Williams, Jr. They were married on March 25, 1967.

Mourning her loss are their two children: son, Colonel Richard L. Williams, DMD, PhD (U.S. Army) and his wife Patricia Neal Williams of Columbia, South Carolina, and daughter, Monica E. Williams, business owner and consultant of Charlotte, North Carolina.

Also surviving are her seven grandchildren: Kendrick D. White, Bianca D. Williams, Richard (Ricky) L. Williams, II, Darius M. White, Hannah M. Williams, Alicia S. Wilson and Ciara M. Nelson.

BIRTH STORY

Cora was born on a Friday morning in July of 1947. A longstanding 'family story' indicated that her parents, Ulysses and Annie Bell, who were big fans of the (then existing) Negro Southern League baseball teams, had planned to attend the game between the Asheville Blues and the Raleigh Tigers, in Asheville, North Carolina, on the fourth of July. This would be the couple's last outing "before the baby comes". Much to her surprise, 37 year old Annie Bell's baby (Cora Helen) was born around 10:15 a.m. that same morning. Over the years, and on numerous occasions, a few of Annie Bell's friends joked with Cora about "spoiling her mama and daddy's July 4th outing".

In spite of this 'rocky start', Cora Helen grew up knowing she was loved by both parents, and was taught at an early age to love and help others. She believed that this was a deciding factor in choosing her life's career.

EDUCATION

Cora graduated from "Old" Westside High School in 1965. She attended Morris Brown College in Atlanta, Georgia in the fall of 1965. Later, in the fall of 1966, she was among the first group of six African American students to attend Anderson Junior College (now, Anderson University) after the school de-segregated. Cora persevered to become the first African American to graduate from Anderson University in the fall of 1966.

With family responsibilities and other priorities, it took a while for Cora to achieve her dream of higher education. She never gave up and graduated from Clemson University in August 1978, with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology. At that point, she became more determined to reach her ultimate goal – earning a master's degree in Social Work. During the fall of 1988, with family encouraging her, Cora enrolled in the Master of Social Work program at the University of South Carolina – Columbia. She successfully completed the academic program in May of 1990. She was tested by the South Carolina Board of Social Work Examiners and became a licensed social worker (LMSW) in June of the same year.

CAREER

Cora was employed as a social worker for over twenty years. She worked for various governmental agencies, corporate bodies and community service organizations during her accomplished career, with unwavering zeal. Her resume lists a diverse range of positions as: Social Services Case Manager; U.S. Census Bureau Interviewer; Employment Counselor for Job Service; Field Director for Old Ninety Six Girl Scout Council; and Clinical Social Worker for AnMed Health.

Although the field of Social Work was not considered a lucrative profession, it proved to be rich in rewards for those fully committed to helping others in need. Cora's love for public health eventually drew her to Appalachia I Health District [Upstate Region, South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC Region I)] – first as a volunteer, and later as a Public Health Social Worker. Cora was often recognized as one who was willing to go the 'extra mile' for the benefit of a client or family. In 1998, she earned the prestigious Ruth G. McCall Award – the Public Health Social Worker of the Year Award for the State of South Carolina. Cora retired from DHEC Region I in January 2009.

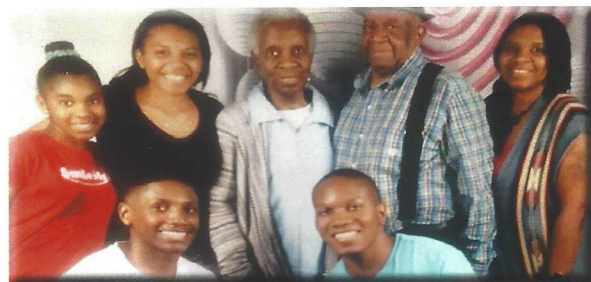
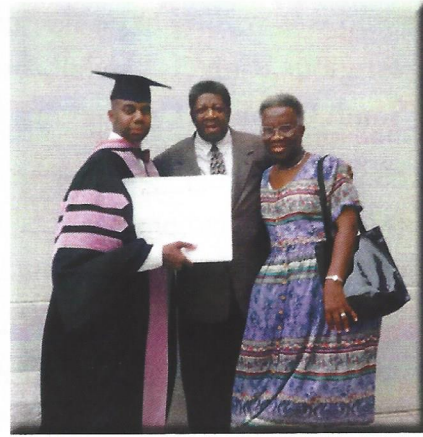
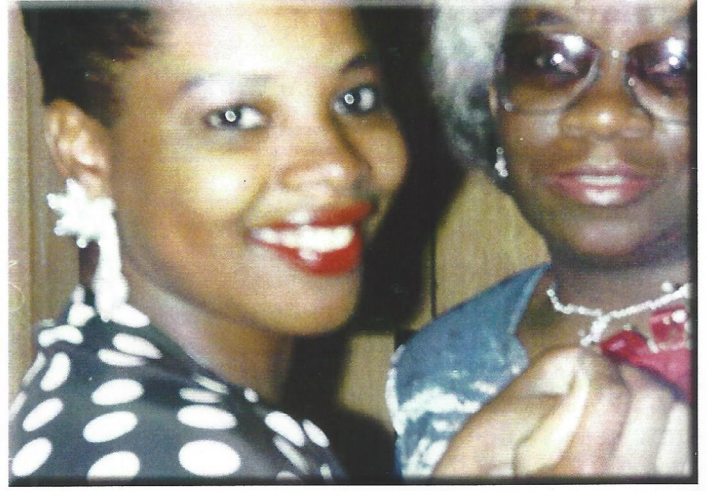
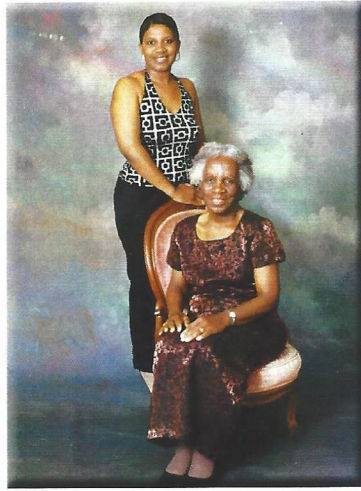
CHRISTIAN FAITH

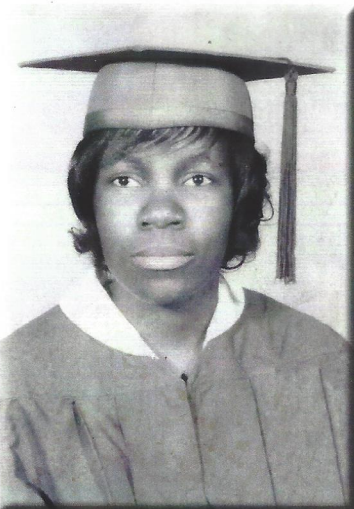
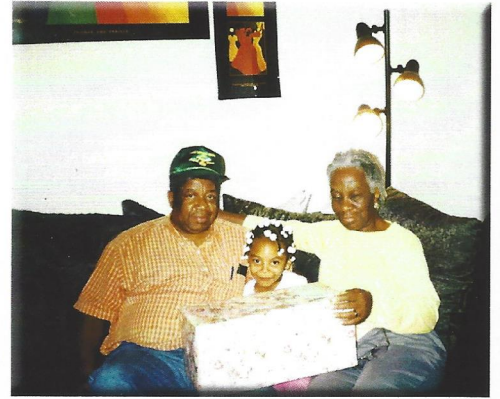
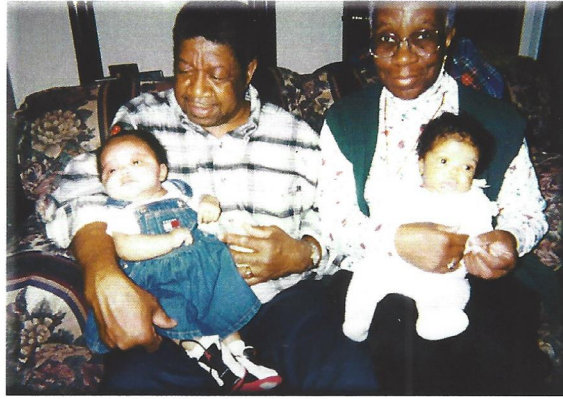
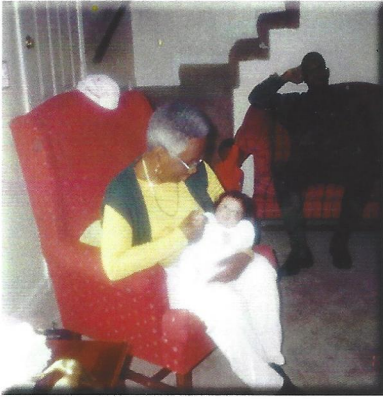
Cora loved the Lord, and she believed that we show God's love best when we render service to others. Her Christian foundation was first established at age 12, through baptism at Royal Baptist Church, where she was active in Sunday school, BTU and other youth leader development programs. Her sound preparation for Christian service ultimately carried over to adult life. In March of 1970, Cora joined Mount Moriah Baptist Church. For almost five decades, she participated in various activities to support the church's core missions, including Sunday School Teacher; Missionary Circle No. 1; and working with other members of the Women's Missionary Union to organize Mt. Moriah's first newsletter – "Focus on Mt. Moriah". Cora especially loved the Vacation Bible School program, to which she committed countless hours, and always maximum effort, to assure that the program was informative and entertaining for children, as well as adults. Her enthusiasm for service was further demonstrated by many years of promoting community outreach, as a member of Iva Chapter No. 275, Order of the Eastern Star, P.H.A. and Azzam Court No. 184, Auxiliary to the A.E.A.O.N.M.S.

Cora placed God first in every endeavor, with relentless passion. She truly exemplified the fundamental teachings of the Christian Faith. Her favorite Bible verse is found in the Book of Proverbs (16:3) "Commit your works to the Lord, and your thoughts will be established". Upon calling this angel home, it is certain that God smiled with pride, and approved her job "Well Done".

Throughout her lifetime, Cora Helen Johnson Williams represented the epitome of selfless service, and she undoubtedly made this World better than she found it.









Farewell For Now

No more pain and suffering mom, the Lord's will has been done.
We've created so many memories, while having so much fun.
Though, it's hard to say good bye, it brings us comfort just to know,
you loved life with a passion, your blessings will forever flow.

So many people talk about, how smart and helpful you have been.
You have influenced many lives, by being a confidante and friend.
We thank the Lord for blessing us, with someone as gifted as you.
You've earned your mighty wings and that bright and shiny crown too.

The best Social Worker ever, the best mom and grandmom too,
A loving wife to our dad, we all have been blessed by loving you.

Farewell for now sweet lady, one day we will meet again.
We love you and we will miss you, we pray that our broken hearts will mend.

(In Loving Memory of our mother Cora Helen Johnson Williams)

Written by: Monica E. Williams

Active Flower Bearers

Missionary Circle No. 1
Mt. Moriah Baptist Church

Active Pallbearers

Deacons and Trustees
Mt. Moriah Baptist Church

Honorary Flower Bearers

Westside High School Class of 1965

Honorary Pallbearers

Westside High School Class of 1965