

Angie Stone



DEC. 18, 1961 - MAR. 1, 2025



Angela Laverne Stone (née Brown; December 18, 1961 – March 1, 2025) was an American singer, songwriter, actress, and record producer. She rose to fame in the late 1970s as a member of the hip hop trio the Sequence. In the early 1990s, she became a member of the R&B trio Vertical Hold. Stone then signed with Arista Records to release her debut solo album Black Diamond (1999), which received a gold certification by the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) and spawned the single "No More Rain (In This Cloud)".

Early Years

Stone was born in Columbia, South Carolina, where she began singing gospel music at First Nazareth Baptist Church, under the leadership of Reverend Blakely N. Scott. Her father, a member of a local gospel quartet, took Stone to see performances by gospel artists such as the Singing Angels and the Gospel Keynotes.

In the late 1970s, when Stone was 16, she formed the rap trio The Sequence, a female hip-hop act, also consisting of Cheryl "The Pearl" Cook and Gwendolyn "Blondie" Chisolm. They were the second rap group signed to the Sugar Hill Records after auditioning for manager Sylvia Robinson backstage at a Sugar Hill Gang concert in South Carolina. In 1980, The Sequence scored a hit with their single "Funk You Up", which reached number 15 on the US Top Black Singles chart. The trio enjoyed a series of rap hits as the first female rap group during the early years of hip hop. Singles such as "Monster Jam" featuring rapper Spoonie Gee and "Funky Sound (Tear The Roof Off)" kept the band touring, with Robinson acting as their mentor.[The group faded into obscurity as hip hop changed from its original party sound to a more gritty street art form and the trio eventually disbanded in 1985.



Stone had two children. Stone's daughter, Diamond, was born in 1984 and is from her marriage to Rodney Stone, also known as Lil' Rodney C!, from the hip-hop group Funky Four Plus One. Diamond contributed background vocals to Stone's 2007 song "Baby". Diamond gave birth to Stone's grandson in 2008 and another grandchild in July 2012.

During the 1990s, Stone was in a relationship with neo soul singer D'Angelo. In 1998, they had a son named Michael D'Angelo Archer II.

Stone lived in Atlanta, Georgia, with her son, Michael, and her daughter, Diamond.



In March 2015, it was reported that Stone had been arrested for assaulting her 30-year-old daughter.

In 1999, Stone was diagnosed with Type 2 diabetes and, along with comedian-actor Anthony Anderson, was part of the FACE Diabetes (Fearless African-Americans Connected and Empowered) program sponsored by Eli Lilly and Company, which helps African Americans understand their risk for diabetes and how to control it. Stone said that both her mother and her mother's sister were diabetic.

Stone was an honorary member of Zeta Phi Beta sorority. She was inducted in July 2024 at the sorority's Boulé in Indianapolis, Indiana.



Stone then worked with hip hop and electro funk music group Mantronix, before becoming the lead vocalist of the trio Vertical Hold which released the popular single "Seems You're Much Too Busy" as well as two albums: A Matter of Time (1993) and Head First (1995). In 1996, Stone teamed up with Gerry DeVeaux, singer Lenny Kravitz's cousin, and Charlie Mole to form the group Devox. They recorded one album, Devox featuring Angie B. Stone, released in Japan by Toshiba EMI. Selected cuts were featured on Gerry DeVeaux's Front of the Line via the Expansion Records, which also included Stone-penned material. Signed to Jocelyn Cooper's Midnight Songs, Stone also shared songwriting credits on D'Angelo's first two studio albums, Brown Sugar (1995) and Voodoo (2000), as well as provided backing vocals when on tour with him. She also served as a backing vocalist on Lenny Kravitz's fifth studio album, 5 (1998)

Career

In the late 1990s, Arista Records then A&R manager Peter Edge brought Stone to label head Clive Davis's attention. He offered her a solo recording contract with the label and in September 1999, her debut solo album, Black Diamond, was released. Named after her then-teenage daughter Diamond Tiara, it was released to positive reviews from music critics, and reached the top ten on Billboard's US Top R&B/Hip-Hop Albums chart. Black Diamond was eventually certified gold by both the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) and the British Phonographic Industry (BPI) and spawned the Adult R&B Songs number-one hit "No More Rain (In This Cloud)". The single earned Stone two nominations at the 2000 Soul Train Music Awards.

In 2000, Stone transitioned from Arista to music manager Clive Davis's venture J Records. Also that year, she recorded the theme song for the UPN/The CW sitcom Girlfriends, starring Tracee Ellis Ross, as well as a cameo appearance from the third season episode "Blinded by the Lights". She then released her second album Mahogany Soul on October 16, 2001, with the label.

Career (cont'd)

Involving a wider range of contemporary R&B musicians, Stone collaborated with Carvin & Ivan, Raphael Saadiq, Swizz Beatz, Alicia Keys and Eve on much of the album. Released to favorable reviews, it peaked at number four on the US Top R&B/Hip-Hop Albums, while reaching the top twenty of the Dutch, Finnish and Flemish Album Charts.

Again, Stone was awarded gold by BPI and RIAA for Mahogany Soul. "Wish I Didn't Miss You", the album's second single, became her biggest international hit yet, reaching the top ten in Australia and Belgium as well as the top of Billboard's Dance Club Songs. "More Than Woman", a duet with singer Calvin Richardson, earned Stone her first Grammy Award nomination in the Best R&B Performance by a Duo or Group with Vocals category at the 45th ceremony.

In 2002, Stone had a guest role on *Girlfriends* and played store owner Madame Mambuza in the American teen comedy The Hot Chick, starring Rob Schneider. The film scored generally negative reviews from film critics for its vulgar and lowbrow humor, but became a moderate box office success in the US.

The following year, the singer appeared in the role of Alma in the Jonathan Lynn's musical comedy-drama The Fighting Temptations alongside Cuba Gooding, Jr. and Beyoncé.

Released to mixed reviews, it was commercially less successful than *The Hot Chick*. Stone recorded "Rain Down", a duet with Eddie Levert, for the accompanying soundtrack.

Stone Love, her third album, was released in June 2004. Davis consulted Warryn Campbell, Jazze Pha and Missy Elliott to work with Stone, who penned and produced half of the final track listing herself. The album debuted at number 14 on the US Billboard 200, selling 53,000 copies in its first week of release, and entered the top twenty in Belgium, Finland, Sweden and the Netherlands. Its release was preceded by the single "I Wanna Thank Ya" featuring Snoop Dogg, a top five hit in Belgium and Stone's second chart topper on the US Dance Club Songs. In 2005, Stone began recording what was expected to become her fifth regular album, but to save costs J Records asked her to transfer her new material, including the previously unreleased single "I Wasn't Kidding", to her first compilation album Stone Hits: The Very Best of Angie Stone, comprising songs from her first three albums. After five years with the company, Stone subsequently asked for and received an unconditional release from the label at the end of 2005.



In 2006, Stone appeared on the VH1's reality television series Celebrity Fit Club for the fourth season, which began on August 6, 2006. While on the show, she lost eighteen pounds, the second lowest loss in the history of the show. The same year, Stone signed to the reworked Stax Records. Her fourth studio album The Art of Love & War, a reference to her experiences in her final days at J Records, where it had become expected that she would help develop new talent, was released on October 15, 2007. The album debuted at number eleven on the US Billboard 200, selling 45,000 copies in its first week, becoming Stone's highest-charting album to date, as well as her first and only album to date to top the Top R&B/Hip-Hop Albums chart. Lead single "Baby", a duet with Betty Wright, became her second number-one hit on the US Adult R&B Songs and earned Stone her third nomination at the 50th Annual Grammy Awards.

Stone's second effort with Stax Records, her fifth studio album Unexpected, was released in November 2009. With its title partly referencing Stone's sudden and devastating loss of her father who unexpectedly died in the midst of her recording sessions for the album, it marked a slight move away from Stone's signature sound in favor of more upbeat R&B and funk influences. A commercial failure, the album debuted and peaked at number 133 on the US Billboard 200 and failed to chart elsewhere. "I Ain't Hearin' U", the album's lead single reached number 14 on Billboard's Adult R&B Songs. In 2009, Stone had a minor role as a strip-club owner in Rockmond Dunbar's comedy drama Pastor Brown. Also that year, she sang "Wade in the Water" in the civil rights documentary Soundtrack for a Revolution (2009). In 2010, Stone then played the head matron of an all-girls school in the film, School Gyrls (2010), directed by Nick Cannon, which featured many Def Jam artists.



In May 2011, along with NeNe Leakes, Stone co-starred in the play Loving Him is Killing Me that was performed in Washington, DC, Miami, and Philadelphia. The play was written by Theo London and also starred Tyson Beckford and Christopher Williams. In 2012, Stone signed to Saguaro Road Records, an in-house music recording label of Time-Life, and released Rich Girl September 25, 2012. actor Malcolm-Jamal Warner contributed a poetry-slam-style spoken-word interlude to the record. Stone and Brian McKnight, who starred together in Chicago on Broadway, toured nationally in a production of Hinton Battle's Love Lies, which started with an engagement at the Warner Theatre in Washington, D.C. in April 2013. The cast also included Crystal Aikin and Elise Neal. Also in 2013, Stone appeared on season two of TVOne's R&B Divas. Stone's role was that of a mentor and life coach.

In July 2019, Stone released her ninth studio album Full Circle, on Conjunction Entertainment and Cleopatra Records. The album features the lead single "Dinosaur", produced by Walter Millsap III & Hallway Productionz.

In June 2024, Stone was inducted into the Women Songwriters Hall of Fame.

Stone was killed in a car accident near Montgomery, Alabama, on March 1, 2025, at the age of 63.^[55] She and her band members were traveling in a Mercedes-Benz Sprinter to Atlanta following a Mardi Gras concert in Mobile, Alabama, when it overturned on Interstate 65; the vehicle was then hit by a Freightliner Cascadia semi-trailer truck. Stone was the only fatality.



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The Rock Christian Center invites you to be a blessing at our
Monthly Feeding the Homeless Ministry 🙏🍴

 New Date: Saturday March 22, 2025

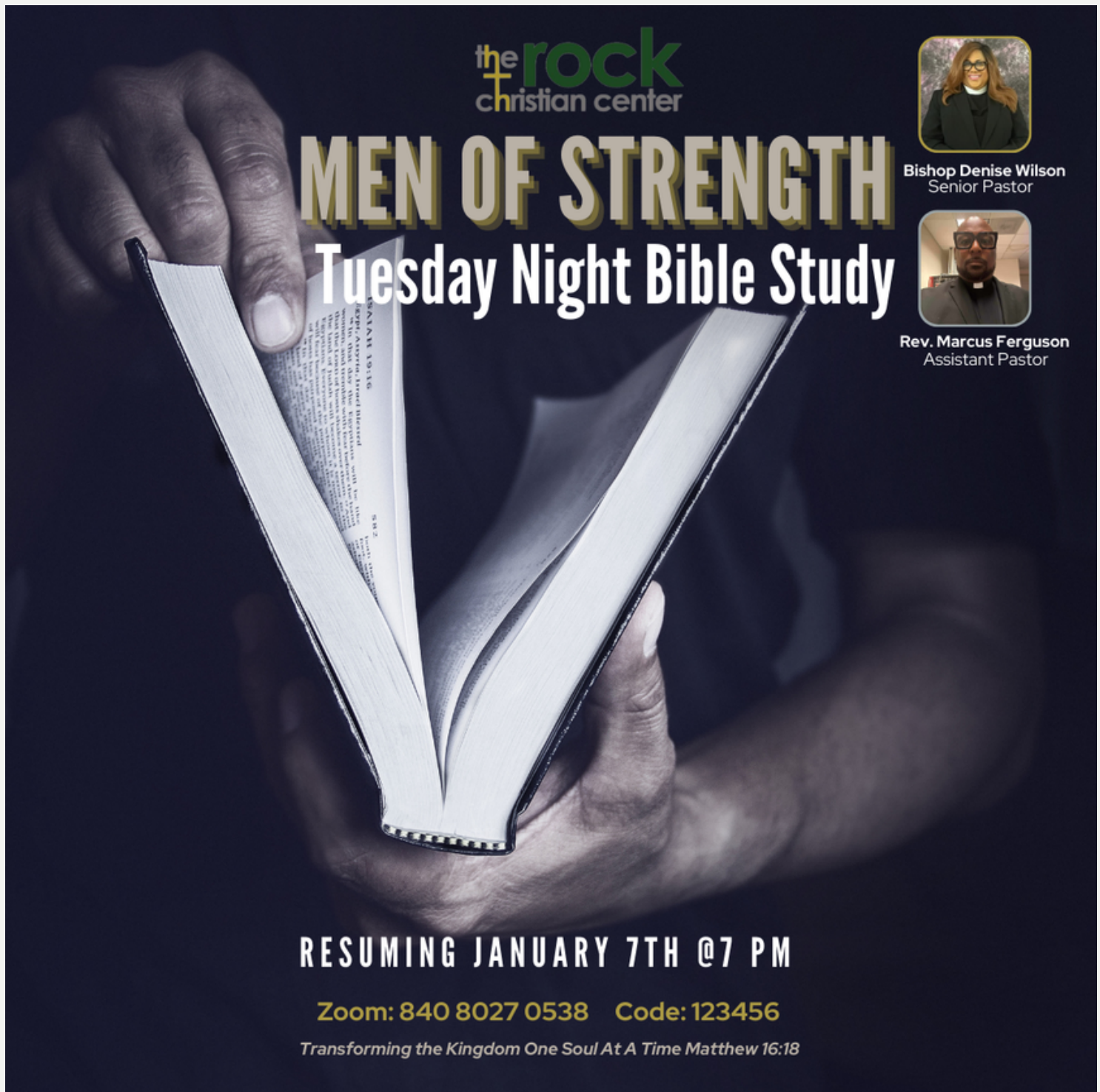
 Time: 9:45 AM

 Location: McPherson Square
15th & I NW, Washington, DC
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Everyone is welcome! Bring a friend and let's serve our community
with joy. See you there! ✨



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MEN OF STRENGTH

Tuesday Night Bible Study

Bishop Denise Wilson
Senior Pastor

Rev. Marcus Ferguson
Assistant Pastor

RESUMING JANUARY 7TH @7 PM

Zoom: 840 8027 0538 Code: 123456

Transforming the Kingdom One Soul At A Time Matthew 16:18

 Men of Strength Bible Study is Back! 🙌

Mark your calendars! The Men's Bible Study, Men of Strength, are on Tuesdays at 7 PM via The Rock Bible Study Zoom.

Join us as we grow together in faith, wisdom, and fellowship. Don't miss this opportunity to strengthen your walk with God!

 Zoom: 840 8027 0538 Code: 123456



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Tune in to refresh your spirit and draw closer to the Lord as we guide you through evening prayers and reflections to end your day on a powerful note.

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SATURDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

Join us for our Saturday morning bible study at 7:00 am for an in-depth study of The Book of Acts. This book provides a bridge for the writings of the NT. It joins what Jesus "began to do and to teach" as told in the Gospels with what he continued to do and teach through the apostles' preaching and the establishment of the church. It is also a bridge that ties the church in its beginning with each succeeding age.

*Read Acts

Bible Study

THURSDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY

📖 Join Us for Our Thursday Night Bible Study! 🙌🌟

This Thursday at 7 PM, we're diving into the book of Deuteronomy! 🔥 Come ready to unpack God's Word, grow in faith, and connect with a community of believers—all from the comfort of your home!

When: Every Thursday at 7 PM (Starting this week!)

Where: Virtual – Join us in our Bible Study Zoom Room

What to Expect: Encouraging discussions, deeper biblical insight, and a space to grow spiritually!

Don't miss this opportunity to strengthen your faith and fellowship with others! Tag a friend and join us! 🙌❤️

Ministry Meeting

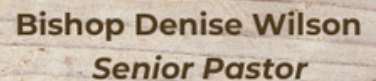


Are you a ministry leader here at The Rock? Have you scheduled a meeting for your ministry? Members are you apart of a ministry here at The Rock? If you are please be on the look out for ministry meetings where you can be apart of the planning for upcoming events.

THE ROCK WEEKLY



The youth department could use the help of our parents in the congregation. Please see Rev. Malika to see how you can be apart of a growing ministry in our church.



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Rev. Ferguson