

# Celebration of life Valarie Rose Ferguson

Friday, July 9, 2021  
7:00 PM



Sunrise  
April 20, 1963  
Viewing and Slide Presentation  
Praise and Tributes  
Thanksgiving

Sunset  
June 17, 2021  
3:00 pm ~ 5:00 pm  
5:30 pm ~ 7:00 pm  
7:00 pm



# A SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING

- Officiating Minister: ..... Rev. Dr. Michael Johnson
- Organist: ..... Sister Valeda Bell
- Organ Prelude:
- Processional Hymn: "Immortal Invisible" ..... (Insert)
- Welcome and Prayer: ..... Rev. Duane Ulrich
- Praise in Worship: ..... Bro. Joshneil Ferguson
- Easter Liturgy: ... Rev. Lance Fox ..... (Insert)
- Special Selections: "The Beautiful Savior" ..... CARD United Choir
- Scripture Reading
- Old Testament: .....
- Proverbs 31:10 - 31 ..... Donald and Malcolm (Brother and Niece)
- The Epistle: 1 Thessalonians 4:14 - 17 ..... Gracia Simms (Cousin)
- Gospel: Matthew 5:3 - 9..... Mordia Porter (Niece)
- Ministry in Song: ..... Dr. Grace Hacket
- Reflections:
  - Carl Fagan (Brother) Carol Pierce (Friend)
  - Ryan Brown (Brother) Shelly-Ann Kerr (Daughter)
- Memorial Offering and Prayer: ..... Rev. Andrew Bennett
- Ministry in Song: ..... Bro. Samuel Clarke
- Eulogy: ..... Wellesley, Joshneil, and Jalethea Ferguson
- CARD United Choir: ..... "Steel Away"
- Words of Comfort: ..... Rev. Terel Scott (Cousin)
- Prayer for the Family: ..... Rev. Charles Harewood (Cousin)
- Hymn: "Soon Shall the Trumpet Sound" ..... (Insert)
- Benediction:

## **Eulogy:**

On April 20, 1963, a beautiful flower was born to Edna Maud Ricketts and Andrew Lee Brown, in Montego Bay Jamaica, whom they named Valarie Rose Brown. Having fragrancd her world for 58 years; Valarie, Sister Val, Teacher transitioned from this life into the presence of God her heavenly Father on June 17, 2021, at Richmond University Medical Center. At the time of her transition, Valarie was surrounded by her husband, son Joshneil, and daughter Jalethea (who was there in spirit). Additionally, her dear friends Lyndis Mills-Jude, and Cicely were at her bedside during her final moments.

As a radiant, highly fragrant and versatile rose, Valarie grew and developed into one of the most admirable roses. Indeed, from an early age she was a "knock out" rose, blooming wherever she was planted. We reminisced about hearing from Valarie how she secretly gave away her mother's groceries, and cooked meals for needy children in her community. Thanks to Valarie's mother, Ms. Edna and father Andrew, who inculcated a spirit of kindness and a sense of community in her by practicing a life of kindness and respect for people from all walks of life. Essentially, Valarie also learned at an early age that "honesty was the best policy," and that "good manners could take one around the world." She was a model and testament of honesty, good manners and respect, which have literally taken her around her world.

As an adolescent, at a critical time in her life, a number of nurturing individuals, families and communities deeply influenced her ever evolving, glowing pursuits. One of those was the Fagan family with whom Valarie established a nurturing and supportive bond that remained throughout her teenage years. She particularly spoke of Mother Fagan, her spiritual mother, who took her under her wings and guided her through every vulnerable moment of her spiritual journey at that juncture in her life. It was about this time that Valarie had a spiritual awakening that set her on a new path to discern God's plan and purpose for her life. Valarie became a member of a Community Church that provided further spiritual nurturing, and opportunities to serve God and community. It was at this church that Valarie's passion for God and community exploded into flames of fire, and where she honed her communication skills, and her ethical, moral and spiritual values. From this point forward there was no stopping for Sister Val in being a kingdom builder. Valarie's peers and friends frequently referred to her as a missionary. One could hear whispers among her peers, "missionary is coming."

After engaging in a brief gainful employment and an exploration in the field of nursing, Valarie responded to what she strongly believed was the most important call upon her life - a call to serve God and His church. About this time also, Valarie heard and answered another call, the call to become the bride of her life's partner (Wellesley) to whom she was joined in marriage, and with whom she faithfully co-labored in ministry for thirty-three years. Valarie entered the Caribbean Nazarene Theological College (now Caribbean College) where she graduated with a certificate in Christian Education. She later graduated from Covington Theological Seminary with a Bachelor's Degree in Christian Education, focusing on Early Childhood. While serving nine different churches over thirty-three years, Valarie never sought, or took any remuneration for her work in the church. She was content in supporting her husband and others in serving the church. Her work alongside her husband in ministry can be truly considered a "labor of love."

While supporting her husband at the Moriah and Evangel pastorates in Trinidad and Tobago, Valarie acquired further qualification and certification in Early Childhood Education and training. As a result of her training and qualification, Valarie felt the need to work with the Evangel Moravian Church to establish an Early Childhood Education Center based on the Montessori model. She tirelessly led and guided local leaders in starting the Early Childhood Center, which is still functioning and making a positive impact today. With the transition of her husband from Antigua to seminary in the United States, they served at United Moravian Church in Manhattan, New York.

After giving birth to her children Valarie invested quality time in their nurturing, education, and spiritual development during their formative years. She provided them with the basic skills and training for their educational path. After a number of years, Valarie re-entered the classroom. Over an extended period, she worked in a number of Early Childhood Centers before joining the NYC DOE in 2014 as an Assistant Teacher, where she worked until she could continue no more. At the time of her passing she was in the process of upgrading her teaching certification.

Valarie's union with her husband produced two wonderful children who love the Lord and people. She also had many spiritual children whom Valarie truly adored. In her interpersonal relationships with both her biological and spiritual children, one could not tell the difference in status, because Valarie treated everyone with the same love, respect, care, and attention. She was firm, straightforward, and a no-nonsense mother and leader. She carved out her own way of communicating and connecting with children, especially Joshneil and Jalethea during their early years. In getting their attention or calling them, whether they were in a crowded room or not, she had a unique way of clapping her hands three times, and you would see them running like crazy to her. To this day Joshneil and Jalethea are able to recall Mom's famous way of calling them - they have some colorful stories to tell.

Without a shadow of a doubt, Valarie's greatest achievements and success came as a servant of God, a mother, a wife and friend for thirty-three years. In every pastorate, Valarie's doors were always opened to everyone. While waiting for her flight at an airport on her way home, a lady with her young child approached Valarie, stopped, then curiously looked her in the eyes and cautiously proceeded to speak, "you look like someone with whom I can talk." She went on to relate her story of spousal abuse. Without a moment's hesitation, Valarie invited both the mother and child to stay with our family until she was okay enough to go to her family home away from her abusive husband. Joshneil, Jalethea and dad fondly remember mom; they look back over the years and laugh at some of the things they did to help those they perceived as needing help. She taught her Sunday School Children social skills and life skills in the form of cooking and other developmental skills. She also taught them communication skills, public speaking, sewing, and arts and crafts. Additionally, she represented parents at parent teacher's conferences and counseled parents and students. For us, Valarie was the world's greatest wife and mother.

Valarie was preceded by her father Andrew L. Brown, mother Edna M. Ricketts, and a brother, Thelwell. She is survived by her husband Wellesley Ferguson, son, Joshneil and daughter, Jalethea; sisters Sonia Thelwell and Donna Malcolm; brothers Coley and Donald Malcolm. She also left to mourn her passing many nieces, nephews, other families, and many forever close friends.

## The Committal Service

Rev. Wellesley Ferguson  
Rev. Terel Scott

Rev. Errol Richards

### Committal Hymns

*My hope is built on nothing less  
than Jesus' blood and righteousness.  
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,  
but wholly lean on Jesus' name.*

#### Refrain

*On Christ the solid rock I stand;  
all other ground is sinking sand,  
all other ground is sinking sand.*

*When Darkness seems to veil His face,  
I rest on his unchanging grace.*

*In every high and stormy gale,  
my anchor holds within the veil.  
His oath, his covenant, his blood  
supports me in the overwhelming flood.  
When all around my soul gives way,  
he then is all my hope and stay.*

*When He shall come with trumpet sound,  
O may I then in him be found!*

*Dressed in his righteousness alone,  
faultless to stand before the throne*

### OFFICIATING MINISTERS

Rev. Dr. Michael Johnson  
Rev. Lance Fox  
Rev. Errol Richard  
Rev. Wellesley Ferguson

Rev. Duane Ulrich  
Rev. Andrew Bennett  
Rev. Charles Harewood  
Minister Naomi Solomon

Organist: Sister Valeda Bell  
Pianist: Brother Joshneil Ferguson

### Palbearers

Donald Malcolm  
Joshneil Ferguson  
Gawayne Porter

Joseph Scott  
Jerome Green  
Stephen England

SOON SHALL THE TRUMPET SOUND

We sing His love, Who once was slain,  
Who soon o'er death revived again,  
That all His saints through Him might have  
Eternal conquests o'er the grave.

**REFRAIN:**

*Soon shall the trumpet sound,  
And we Shall rise to immortality.*

The saints who now with Jesus sleep  
His own almighty power shall keep,  
Till dawns the bright illustrious day  
When death itself shall die away.

How loud shall our glad voices sing,  
When Christ His risen saints shall bring,  
From beds of dust and silent clay,  
To realms of everlasting day!

When Jesus we in glory meet,  
Our utmost joys shall be complete,  
When landed on that heavenly shore,  
Death and the curse will be no more.

Hasten, dear Lord, the glorious day,  
And this delightful scene display,  
When all Thy saints from death shall rise  
raptured in bliss beyond the skies.

Immortal, Invisible

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,  
In light inaccessible hid from our eyes,  
Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,  
Almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.

Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,  
Nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;  
Thy justice, like mountains, high soaring above  
Thy clouds, which are fountains of goodness and love.

Great Father of glory, pure Father of light,  
Thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight,  
All praise we would render; O help us to see,  
Tis only the splendor of light hideth thee.

**PRAISE AND TRIBUTES**  
**For**  
**Valarie Rose Ferguson**

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Worship Leader ..... Sister Jennifer Aska  
Opening Remarks: .....  
Prayer: .....  
Praise in Worship: .....  
Combined Steel Orchestra: .....  
Moderator: ..... Minister Naomi Solomon

**TRIBUTES:**

Rev. Dr. Betsy Miller: President, Provincial Elders Conference NP  
Rev. Algernon Lewis: President, Eastern West Indies Province  
Rev. David Bennett: President, Eastern District Executive Board  
Rev. Esther Moore: Superintendent, Tobago Conference  
Rev. Ronald Grey: Supt., Western District Church of the Nazarene  
Mr. Patrick Bernard: C.A.R.D.  
Bishop Brinmore Phaul Guyana

Musical Selection ..... Brother Darnley Brown

**TRIBUTES - Cont'd**

Sis. Valarie Richardson ..... Moriah Moravian Church  
Sis. Vernella Scotland ..... Evangel Moravian Church  
Gracehill Moravian Church  
Sis. Edith Clashing ..... Cashew Hill Moravian Church  
Sis. Eldra Drew ..... United Moravian Church  
Sis. Dorie Crawford ..... Fellowship Moravian Church  
Bro. Bill Mundy ..... Vanderbilt Avenue Moravian Church

Musical Selection ..... Sister Sharon Rankine

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Organist: Sister Valeda Bell  
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**Pallbearers:**

Donald Malcolm  
Joseph Scott  
Joshneil Ferguson  
Jerome Green  
Gawyne Porter  
Stephen England

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The family of the late Valarie Ferguson would like to express their deep appreciation and sincere thanks for all acts of kindness shown to them during the time of illness and bereavement. Thank you to all those who have participated in the service; to those who have travelled from near and far to be with us and to those who could not be here, but are participating by Zoom, YouTube or Facebook. We would also like to extend a special thanks to New Dorp Moravian Church.

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*Interment*

**MORAVIAN CEMETARY**  
Staten Island, NY

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Professional Services Entrusted to:  
**Bradford Funeral Home**  
1241 Castleton Avenue  
Staten Island, NY 10310  
Telephone: (718) 815 - 2744