



Mrs. Johnnie Mae Gray

November 19, 1940 - April 3, 2015

My Story:

I was born on November 19, 1940, in Chattanooga, Tennessee to loving parents James and Edna Geneva Hood who both have gone on to Glory. I was the third out of the five of us: Essie Branch, Pinella (Pat) Hatch, Wilbert Hood and Carol June Swift. My big sister Essie and little brother Wilbert have also gone on to Glory.

I gave my life to Christ at age 8 at Carter Street Baptist Church in Chattanooga, TN under Rev. William A Banks. My family and I moved up north where I was destined to join New Prospect Missionary Baptist Church in 1957. I was a member for over 60 beautiful years in which I joyfully served under the exceptional leaderships of Rev Charles B. Heath, Reverend Dr. S. Leon Whitney, Reverend Dr. Keith L. Whitney, Reverend Randolph F. Henlon and Reverend Dr. Wilma R. Johnson.

I attended Northern High School in Detroit, MI and as time went on, I fell in love and married Alfred Charles Gray on April 7, 1957 which resulted in the blessing of "my five babies" Waylon Dwayne, Sharon ("Baby Sister"), Alfreda ("Thumbelina"), Curtis ("Plumpy") and Cheryl ("Suga-Bear"). I loved these lil nicknames Al gave to the kids. My Lord! We had some good times! A lot of singing and dancing in that house.

I was also blessed to have an extended family with New Prospect. It was always, simply put, just home to me. Throughout the years, I think I sang in just about almost every choir we had, the Celestial, Junior, Excelsior Choir, Choir #2, Senior Choir and Combined Choir, I was Assistant Choir Director, soloist for funeral services and sang at numerous churches throughout the Metro Detroit area...and I loved EVERY second of it.

My greatest joy was singing. You see, singing for me enabled me to confess my brokenness, and fears that I carried. It enabled me to listen for God's voice and praise Him. Singing reminded me of how much God loves us all. For me, singing permeates all God's creation and embraces humanity. How we sing together and what we sing together is a reflection our faith, our church, our union with God and our thoughts and feelings about one another. Worship for me IS singing. It will continue on in my NEW home with my two grandbabies Christopher Gray and Crystal Gray and laughing with my niece Kathy Hatch. We're all forming a new choir now! I went on to Glory on April 3, 2015...
GOOD FRIDAY! Yes I did! Therefore, do not stand at my grave and weep, I am not there, I do not sleep. Do not stand at my grave and cry, I am not there, I did not die!

God Bless You All!

Cemetery Details

Evergreen Cemetery

19807 Woodward Ave
Detroit, MI 48203

Previous Events

Visitation

Monday, Apr. **13.** 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

O. H. Pye, III Funeral Home
17600 Plymouth Road
Detroit, MI 48227
(313) 838-9770
info@pyefuneralhome.com

Family Hour

Tuesday, Apr. **14.** 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

New Prospect Missionary Baptist Church
6330 Pembroke
Detroit, MI 48221

Funeral Service

Tuesday, Apr. **14.** 11:00 AM (ET)

New Prospect Missionary Baptist Church
6330 Pembroke
Detroit, MI 48221

Tribute Wall



“ *Mrs. Johnnie Mae Gray*

January 21, 2023 at 09:34 PM



“ *Another angel has joined God's choir. Rest in peace, Ms. Gray, loved your voice; your gift! J. Touchstone*

JP Touchstone - April 01, 2017 at 07:31 PM



“ *May god have mercy on your soul. As well as the rest of your family*

Unknown - January 06, 2016 at 01:55 AM



“ *Stella Stevenson lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Johnnie Mae Gray*



Stella Stevenson - May 05, 2015 at 10:59 PM



“ *I'm so sorry to hear of her passing...She was a compassionate and warming soul. I'm sure the Lord will be enjoying her beautiful smile and voice throughout eternity! God Bless you all!-Tracey Martins-Howard*



Traceu Martins - April 27, 2015 at 12:29 PM

MH

“ To the Family of Johnnie Mae Gray so very sorry to hear of her passing. She was very near and dear to our family because our families grew up together at New Prospect Baptist. (Such fond memories) She had the "Voice" of an "Angel" and was the "Voice" of New Prospect's Excelsior Choir. May the Lord comfort you at this time and give you peace. Love & Prayers. Mary Hunt and Family



Mary Hunt - April 13, 2015 at 07:20 PM

YF

“ Your International Bancard Family purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Mrs. Johnnie Mae Gray.



Your International Bancard Family - April 13, 2015 at 09:16 AM

Y(

“ Yolanda Hood - (Niece) lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Johnnie Mae Gray



Yolanda Hood - (Niece) - April 12, 2015 at 09:44 PM

M(

“ *Ms. Yolanda Hood - (Niece) lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Johnnie Mae Gray*



Ms. Yolanda Hood - (Niece) - April 12, 2015 at 09:42 PM



“ ~"Mama, I LOVE YOU as though you never left..." ~ "You radiated a bright light that gave me hope, inspiration, and strength. Your MELODIOUS VOICE humbled me (my favorites: "Lord, Don't Move My Mountain", and "God Is Truly Amazing"). I appreciate how you accepted me for who I (am)-and supportive of most anything I ventured upon; and not what SOCIETY commands. I APPRECIATE all that you have done for me/us, as I have often told you-especially during your "seasoned years." Throughout the good, bad, and indifferent in life, you never turned your back on me-even when you couldn't be-physically-there...Thank You, Mama, for loving me~UNCONDITIONALLY. And, in turn, I gave it right back to you in your times of need. I'll miss the times we had each other laughing, even when you weren't feeling your best. I'll miss the times we talked about a little bit of everything...and when I left the room-most often-there was a sense of "calm." I'll also miss those Thursday night calls (you or I made)-@9pm-to make sure we tuned in to our favorite show. Oh, Mom, I could go on, forever mentioning the JOY you brought me, as well as others...But, there's nothing like the gratitude I have because of the spirit I have developed from the overall effect your humility had on {me}; any imperfections are null & void. I loved your authenticity. ~?Love, Your (middle) Daughter, Freda? {To me, your "light" never went out....It may have dimmed here and there, but (it) will always shine, as far as I'm concerned. I can sense your presence when miraculous things happen that I had no control over. I truly believe that's GOD'S way of allowing you to- once again-embrace me.} AMEN.

Alfreda Gray - April 12, 2015 at 12:20 PM



FYI. . . (ALL) those-added-"?"marks [are] ERRORS of a distraught[?] relative OR editor.

Alfreda Gray - March 08, 2016 at 07:14 AM

C(

“ *My Beloved! No more long distance phone calls, that seem to last forever (smiles). No more "baby talk" between us, like we so often would do! But guess what my dear sister? I will treasure ALL our wonderful memories (& we shared many!) From childhood right up to our "last" verbal communication! I'm already missing you sister, and it will last til we meet again, and I'm sure we will! Continue singing my "Songbird!" I'll ALWAYS LOVE YOU!!!!*

Carol Swift (Sister) - April 12, 2015 at 10:30 AM

CG

“ *CHERYL GRAY sent a virtual gift in memory of Mrs. Johnnie Mae Gray*



CHERYL GRAY - April 12, 2015 at 10:06 AM

CG

“ *CHERYL GRAY lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Johnnie Mae Gray*



CHERYL GRAY - April 12, 2015 at 10:05 AM

 Brenda
Holt

“ *My condolences to the Gray and Hatch families. As a young member of New Prospect Baptist Church in the 70's, I was instantly mesmerized by her powerful and melodic angelic voice. Each time she sang, you were excited because you knew your spirit would be touched and you were in for a special treat. She truly shared her God given talent and never came across as diva like, when she could have because she had the voice to back it up. I thank God for allowing me to share the same time and space with this beautiful lady. May you rest in peace Mrs. Gray.*

*Sincerely,
Brenda Rooks
Phoenix, Arizona*

Brenda Holt - April 11, 2015 at 10:30 PM

EM

“ Dearest Johnnie,

My heart is so heavy. Your voice is simply synonymous with New Prospect Baptist Church and I will say that you are one of the most dedicated members of the New Prospect Family that I know personally.

I met you for the first time in the early 1970's when I joined the Excelsior Choir. Those were the good old days! You took me under your wing and made sure that I had the words to all of the songs. You have never let transportation stop you from serving the Lord. So many of us at one time or another have had the privilege of taking you home or picking you up for church.

The day I met you all those years ago, I never thought that in 2009 you would be singing for my mother's funeral. You have blessed so many other families with your melodious gift from our Lord and Savior as you have blessed my family.

My heart was simply broken when I heard that the Lord had called you home. I know we that are left behind won't totally understand the Joy that you are experiencing until our time comes. However, it sure does hurt right now...

I Love you Johnnie and am looking forward to joining you in the Heavenly Choir one day soon.

All of my Love to Johnnie Mae Gray's family. She was a strong woman and now she is a totally Blessed Soul.

Earlena Molini

Earlena Vinita Molini - April 10, 2015 at 02:01 PM