



Ms. Willie Mae Brinkley

January 12, 1937 - June 30, 2024

Willie Mae Brooks Brinkley, beloved mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, niece, cousin, aunt, friend, and devoted member of her

community, passed away peacefully on June 30, 2024, at the age of 87.

Willie Mae was born January 12, 1937, to the late Reedis Brooks and Irene Gillis Brooks. She spent her formative years under the care of her grandparents, Jasper and Eliza Gillis and her Aunt Sallie Ann Hailey.

Willie Mae confessed her faith in Christ and joined Williams Chapel Presbyterian church at an early age. She was very active in church, always eager to participate in various church activities. After graduating from Johnsonville High School as class valedictorian in 1956, Willie Mae married Ernest Lornell Brinkley and from this union, they were blessed with five (5) children. Willie Mae left her home church and joined Bethel A.M.E. Zion Church where her husband's family worshipped.

She served faithfully for over 30 years as a member of the Young Adult Choir and subsequently as the financial secretary.

Willie Mae had always dreamed of becoming a teacher and in 1971, she began her quest to fulfill that dream by enrolling at Campbell College in the teacher's program. She graduated from Campbell College in 1975, and began her teaching career, initially in Sanford, NC in the head start program and eventually landing a position at Lillington Elementary School where she remained until she retired from teaching in 2002.

Willie Mae was a passionate schoolteacher who dedicated her life to

educating and nurturing the minds of young students. She earned a Master's degree in education from North Carolina Central University and was known for her innovative teaching methods and unwavering dedication to her students.

In 2001, Willie Mae felt called to return to her home church where she found comfort and support in her faith. She became a dedicated member, serving as an Elder and the church Treasurer until her health declined. She was a pillar of her community, always willing to lend a helping hand and offer words of wisdom and encouragement to those around her.

Willie Mae will be remembered for her kind heart, her unwavering faith, and her unending love for her family. She leaves behind a legacy of compassion, wisdom, and dedication that will live on in the hearts of all who knew her.

She leaves to cherish her memories: two sons, Bishop Anthony L. Brinkley (Barbara) of Lillington, NC and Samuel N. Brinkley of Wake, VA; two daughters, Sandra Hands of the home and Tonya Brinkley of Woodbridge, VA; eight grandchildren, eighteen great-grandchildren. two aunts, Sallie Ann Hailey and Fannie Headen; two brothers-in-law, Willie C. Brinkley and Linwood Brinkley; numerous cousins, nieces, nephews and a community of friends and loved ones who will miss her dearly. She is also survived by her beloved cousins, Vashti Stricklin, Connie Hailey, and Van Hailey, who shared a special bond with Willie Mae during their childhood and were like siblings to her as they grew up together. She was preceded in death by her husband, Ernest Lornell Brinkley and her son, Reedis Bryan Brinkley. May she rest in peace knowing that her life made a difference in the lives of so many.

Previous Events

Viewing

JUL 5. 1:00 PM (ET)

Bethel A.M.E. Zion
255 Vass Road
Spring Lake, NC 28390

Funeral

JUL 5. 2:00 PM (ET)

Bethel A.M.E. Zion
255 Vass Road
Spring Lake, NC 28390

Burial

JUL 5 (ET)

McLean Family Cemetery
2822 NC 24-87
Cameron, NC 28326

Tribute Wall



“ *Colvin Funeral Homes & Cremations created a Tribute Video in memory of Ms. Willie Mae Brinkley*



H. M. Colvin Funeral Home - July 05, 2024 at 02:30 PM

VR

“ *Vanessa Chalmers Rogers lit a candle in memory of Willie Brinkley*



Vanessa Chalmers Rogers - July 10, 2024 at 10:08 PM

LS

“ *Leslie Street lit a candle in memory of Willie Brinkley*



Leslie Street - July 05, 2024 at 05:24 PM

FJ

“ *Felicia G. Jones*



Felicia G Jones - July 04, 2024 at 10:13 PM

JC

“ *Janice McKoy Chalmers lit a candle in memory of Ms. Willie Mae Brinkley*



Janice McKoy Chalmers - July 04, 2024 at 08:16 PM

JC

“ *Janice McKoy Chalmers lit a candle in memory of Ms. Willie Mae Brinkley*



Janice McKoy Chalmers - July 04, 2024 at 07:13 PM

AJ

“ *Willie Mae's participation in her family reunions and Sandhills Family Heritage Association activities are cherished memories. Please let us know if there's anything we can do to help you through this difficult time. Our prayers and condolences to the family!*

Ammie McRae Jenkins - July 04, 2024 at 06:15 PM

DA

“ DASO purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Ms. Willie Mae Brinkley.



DASO - July 04, 2024 at 05:55 PM

AM

“ Alice McDougald lit a candle in memory of Ms. Willie Mae Brinkley



Alice McDougald - July 04, 2024 at 05:19 PM

MI

“ May you all find comfort in knowing your family matriarch is at peace. Michele Borel



Michele - July 04, 2024 at 01:11 PM

ME

“ I met this kindred spirit for the first time at our Florida Reunion. May the lord our God wray her in the arms of His bosom and keep her for eternity.

Mike Everett - July 04, 2024 at 12:31 PM

CM

“ Condolences to my classmate Tonya sending prayers for the family in time of bereavement may The Most High comfort and secure you in his love from Cynthia Amerson



Cynthia Amerson McLean - July 04, 2024 at 11:36 AM

TF

“ My condolences to the family. May God strength and comfort you all during this difficult time. ❤️



Teresa McDougald French - July 03, 2024 at 09:42 PM

NB

“ Norma Jean McNeill Ballou lit a candle in memory of Ms. Willie Mae Brinkley



Norma Jean McNeill Ballou - July 03, 2024 at 09:18 PM

AJ

“ Angela(Lucas) & Willie Johnson, Jr. lit a candle in memory of Ms. Willie Mae Brinkley



Angela(Lucas) & Willie Johnson, Jr. - July 03, 2024 at 05:09 PM

YA

“ Yvonne Allen lit a candle in memory of Willie Brinkley



Yvonne Allen - July 03, 2024 at 02:32 PM

CW

“ Cassandra Walker lit a candle in memory of Ms. Willie Mae Brinkley



Cassandra Walker - July 03, 2024 at 09:23 AM

CG

“ Lifting your family in prayer

Charlie & Bobbie Gilchrist - July 03, 2024 at 09:23 AM

PS

“ Elder Tonya, Sis. Sandra and Family,
We share in the your grief in the passing of our LFC Elder Willie Mae Brinkley, May the peace of GOD surround each of you and the comfort of knowing there are others who care help you through this valley experience. There is JOY in knowing that if we know Christ to be absent from the body is to be present with the LORD. We are here for you.



Pastor Gracie and Members of SSPC - July 03, 2024 at 08:59 AM

KN

“ *Kitty White Newkirk lit a candle in memory of Ms. Willie Mae Brinkley*



Kitty White Newkirk - July 02, 2024 at 11:54 PM

LC

“ *Lewis Cameron lit a candle in memory of Ms. Willie Mae Brinkley*



Lewis Cameron - July 02, 2024 at 10:55 PM

D(

“ *David & John (ISA) purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Ms. Willie Mae Brinkley.*



David & John (ISA) - July 02, 2024 at 06:54 PM

TG

“ *The Wright Group purchased the Lavender Reflections Spray for the family of Ms. Willie Mae Brinkley.*



The Wright Group - July 02, 2024 at 04:46 PM

TG

“ The Wright Group planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Ms. Willie Mae Brinkley.

The Wright Group - July 02, 2024 at 04:46 PM

WS

“ Willie and Linda Smith lit a candle in memory of Willie Brinkley



Willie and Linda Smith - July 02, 2024 at 09:53 AM

RL

“ Ray and Angie Leinart purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of Ms. Willie Mae Brinkley.



Ray and Angie Leinart - July 02, 2024 at 12:33 AM

RL

“ Ray and Angie Leinart planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Ms. Willie Mae Brinkley.

Ray and Angie Leinart - July 02, 2024 at 12:33 AM

CT

“ Cynthia Taylor lit a candle in memory of Willie Brinkley



Cynthia Taylor - July 01, 2024 at 11:28 PM

HS

“ Holy Tabernacle Of Jesus Apostel Bell Sm lit a candle in memory of Willie Brinkley



Holy Tabernacle Of Jesus Apostel Bell Sm - July 01, 2024 at 10:40 PM

HS

“ Holy Tabernacle Of Jesus Apostel Bell Sm lit a candle in memory of Willie Brinkley



Holy Tabernacle Of Jesus Apostel Bell Sm - July 01, 2024 at 10:38 PM

MH

“ Martha Hair lit a candle in memory of Willie Brinkley



Martha Hair - July 01, 2024 at 10:32 PM

LN

“ *Sending sincere condolences to family in the transition of cousin Willie Mae. Praying that God our Heavenly Father give you peace and comfort during this your season of bereavement. Be eternally blessed family.*



Lena McNeill Miller & Family, Albany, NY - July 01, 2024 at 03:43 PM

PT

My sincere condolences to the family of Willie Mae Brinkley. May God grant you peace, comfort and strength during this time if bereavement.

Patricia Pesrson Turley - July 04, 2024 at 10:53 AM

PT

My condolences to the family of Willie Mae Brinkley. May God grant you peace, comfort and strength during this time of bereavement 🙏🕊️
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Patricia Pesrson Turley - July 05, 2024 at 10:57 AM

DS

My sincere condolences to the family of Willie Mae Brinkley. You're in my thoughts and prayers.

Delois Stroud-Farrow - July 05, 2024 at 06:24 PM