

Homegoing Celebration
of
Dr. Dora D. Ashford



Thursday October 22nd, 2011
11:00 a.m.

St. Paul United Methodist Church
1500 6th Avenue North
Birmingham, Alabama 35203



Rev. Marcus J. Singleton, Pastor
Rev. John London, Officiant
Rev. Watt T. Washington, Eulogist

Obituary

On August 12th, 1927, Dr. Dora Davidson Ashford began life's journey in Centreville, Alabama, Bibb County, guided by loving and wise parents, Mr. Henry and Mrs. Grace (Duff) Davidson. She was the oldest of seven siblings. She journeyed into eternal rest on October 22nd, 2011. Her parents, her devoted husband and three siblings (Otha Davidson, Willis Davidson and Joyce Davidson Tyner) preceded her in death.

Her spiritual journey began when she committed herself to a life of service to God at Shiloh Missionary Baptist, Centreville, AL. She later became a member of Village View United Methodist Church, Athens, AL and was a member of St. Paul United Methodist Church, Birmingham, AL until her death.

Her educational journey carried her through the public schools of Centerville, then on to Alabama State University, Montgomery, AL, where she obtained Bachelor of Science Degree, the University of Oklahoma, Norman, OK, where she obtained a Master of Education Degree and the University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, AL where she obtained a Doctorate of Education in Early Childhood/Elementary Education.

Her educational journey continued as she touched the minds of many young people as a classroom teacher in Baldwin County and Limestone County and later as a Guidance Counselor at Trinity High School, Athens AL. She was Dean of Women at Alabama A&M University, Huntsville, AL and later an educator at Athens State University, Athens, AL, from which she retired. After retirement, she continued her career for a time at Martin Methodist College in Pulaski, TN.

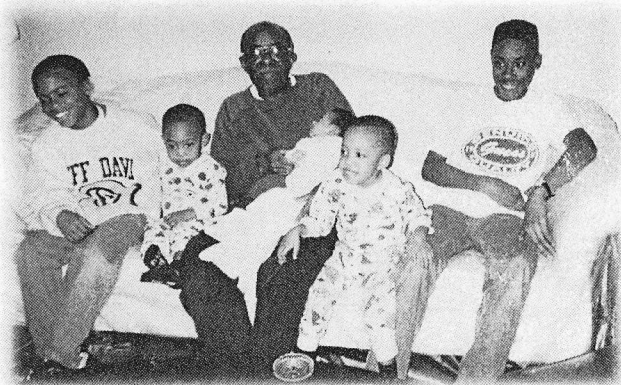
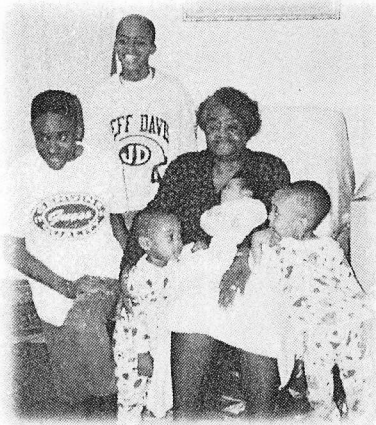
Her journey of service carried her throughout her church, schools and the community. Dora served in a number of Conference and District offices of the United Methodist Church as well as the local church. She served as a Director of the Women's Division from 1976 to 1984. She served as Chairperson of the Committee on Nominations for the Southeastern Jurisdiction Core Planning Group (1986-1992). She completed her United Methodist Women North Alabama tenure in 1996, serving in the appointed position of historian. She was the first African American elected to president of the Decatur District United Methodist Women and served from 1997 to 1998. The twelfth North Alabama Conference United Methodist Women Biennial Report (1995-1996) was dedicated to Dr. Dora D. Ashford, Ed. D. with love and appreciation for many years of devoted and distinguished service.

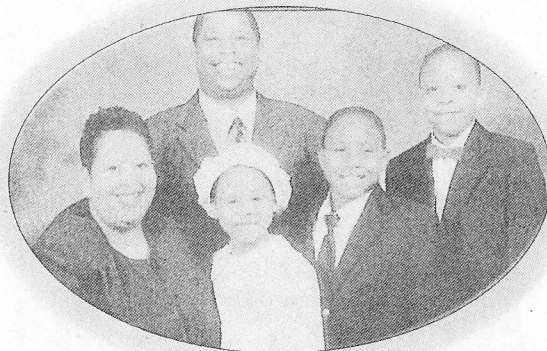
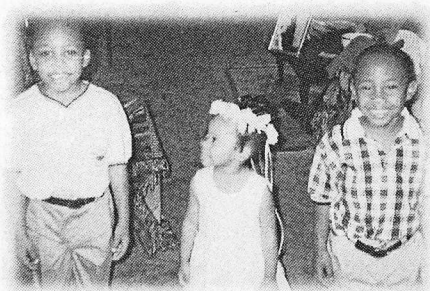
In the capacity of her duties with the Women's Division of the United Methodist Church, Dora traveled the world. Beginning in 1978 she visited East and West Africa, Israel, Jamaica, Cuba, the Philippine Islands, Japan, Panama, Costa Rica, China and Hong Kong. Knowledge gained from her travels, combined with her educational skills and experience made her a much sought-after teacher in Conference Schools of Christian Mission throughout the United States and abroad.

She was a loyal and active of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc. for many years.

In July of 1948 she was united in holy matrimony to Mr. Winfred H. Ashford. To this union two children were born.

She is survived by her son, Winfred Orlando Ashford, Athens, AL, daughter, Cheryl and devoted son-in-law, Darryl McMillan, Birmingham, AL, brothers, Staff Sgt. (Retired) James Davidson, Petersburg, VA, Dr. John Davidson, Tuskegee, AL, Mrs. Bettye Bailey (William), Huntington Station, NY, two sisters-in-law, Mrs. Mary A. Harrison, Chicago, IL and Mrs. Audrey T. Davidson, Rochester, NY, one brother-in-law, Dr. Benjamin H. Ashford, Jr., Memphis, TN, six grand children, Brian and Michael Ashford, Montgomery, AL, Justin, Darryl, Jr., Ashton and Nikiea McMillan, Birmingham, AL, three great grandchildren, Kinsey and Kayden Thomas, Prattville, AL, Tristan Hurd, Odenville, AL and many loving nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.





Order of Service

Reverend John London, Presiding

Prelude.....Mrs. Leslie Belser

Processional

Opening Hymn "How Great Thou Art"..... Soloist, W. Orlando Ashford

Liturgical Dance.....Ashton McMillan

Prayer..... Rev. James Fields,
Pastor, St. James United Methodist Church, Irondale, Al

"I Surrender All".....Choir

Reading of the Scriptures

Old Testament (Psalms 121:1-8).....Rev. Dr. Richard Lane Stryker
District Superintendent Southeast District
North Alabama Conference United Methodist Church

New Testament.....Rev. John London,
Associate Pastor, St. Paul United Methodist Church

Solo (Sweet, Sweet Spirit)..... Mrs. Leslie Belser

Reflections

Mrs. Marie Kirby
Brother Justin McMillan

Reading (Trees).....

Musical Tribute.....Mrs. Christine Canada and Mr. Tommie L. Lockhart

Eulogy.....Rev. Watt T. Washington

Recessional



Acknowledgements

The family of Dr. Dora D. Ashford wishes to thank everyone for all the acts of kindness extended to us during this difficult time in our lives. Your kind, encouraging words, thoughts, deeds, visits and most of all your prayers have been a comfort. You came to assist in our sorrow and distress. May God continue to richly and abundantly bless each of you.

Pall Bearers

Benjamin Ashford
Darren P. Bailey
Michael Davidson
Miles Davidson
Barren George
Christopher Tyner

Flower Attendants

United Methodist Women
and Friends

Arrangements entrusted to
Davenport & Harris Funeral Home Inc.
301 Martin Luther King, Jr. Dr. S.W.
Birmingham, AL 35211



Davenport & Harris

-Interment-
Elmwood Cemetery
600 Martin Luther King Jr. Dr
Birmingham, AL 35211

