

**Celebrating Her Spirit**

**Celebrating Eternal Life**

---

**A Homegoing Celebration  
for  
Sis. Willie Pearl Bates Daniels**



**1932 ~ 2009**

**Saturday, May 16, 2009**

**11:00 A. M.**

**Tickfaw Missionary Baptist Church  
6339 Bates School Road  
Magnolia, Mississippi**

**Rev. Edward Moyese Boss, Pastor/Officiating**



**I have fought the good fight,  
I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. 2 Timothy 4:7**

---

## *God Saw*

*God saw the road was getting rough,  
The hill was hard to climb;  
He gently closed those loving eyes  
And whispered "Peace Be Thine."*

*The weary hours, the days of pain,  
The sleepless nights have passed;  
The ever patient worn-out frame  
Has found sweet rest at last.*

*God Saw that you were weary  
So He did what He knows best.  
He came and stood beside you,  
And whispered, "Come and rest."*

*You bid no one a last farewell,  
Not even a goodbye.  
You were gone before we knew it,  
And only God knows why.*

---





## Obituary

*I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Hence forth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing — II Timothy 4: 7-8.*

**Sis. Willie Pearl Bates Daniels** was born January 11, 1932 to the late Howard Bates and Fannie Viola Hurst Bates in Peoria, Mississippi. On Thursday, May 7, 2009, at the Baton Rouge General Hospital, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, the angels of eternal life blew their trumpets and called her home to be with the Lord. Sis. Daniels now resides in heaven with the same compassion, thoughtfulness, kindness, care, and benevolence in which she exhibited during her life on earth.

Sis. Daniels accepted Christ at an early age, and became a life-long member of the Tickfaw Missionary Baptist Church. She served faithfully as a deaconess and church announcement clerk until her health began to decline. She later joined the First United Methodist Church of Baker, Louisiana as an affiliate (watch care) member under the leadership of Rev. Gene Rives.

Sis. Daniels was a member of the Amite County Teachers Association and the Mississippi State Teachers Association. She was also a member of the Heroines of Jericho Tickfaw Court #474 for more than fifty years, during which time she held various offices, including the Most Ancient Matron and District Secretary.

Sis. Daniels was united in holy matrimony to the late Phillip Daniels. To this union, two daughters were born -- Delois Diane Daniels and Vera Inez Daniels.

Sis. Daniels attended Europe Bates School, Liberty, Mississippi and Waynesboro High School, Waynesboro, Mississippi. She received a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education from Alcorn State University (formerly, Alcorn A & M College), Lorman, Mississippi; and engaged in further study at Mississippi University for Women (formally Mississippi State College for Women) Columbus, Mississippi and the University of Southern Mississippi, Hattiesburg, Mississippi. Sis. Daniels was employed with the Amite County Public School System as an elementary school teacher where she nurtured, inspired, and educated hundreds of students. She retired from the Amite County Public School System in 1991, along side her sister (Inez Bates Sutton) after 37 years of service. After retirement she opened her own business "Simply Unique Boutique" in Baker, Louisiana, and managed it until her health began to decline. She enjoyed traveling, fishing, gardening, writing poems, speeches, and making floral arrangements.

Sis. Daniels was preceded in death by her loving husband, Phillip Daniels, father and mother, Howard Bates and Fannie Viola Hurst Bates; five brothers, Bernell, Claude, Ellis Ray, Curtis, and Marshall Bates; and sister, Olye Bates Scott. She leaves to cherish and celebrate her memory two loving and devoted daughters -- Dr. Delois Diane Daniels (Charles Rutledge), West Bloomfield, MI and Dr. Vera Inez Daniels, Baker, LA; three grandchildren, Cavan Rutledge, Los Angeles, CA, Christopher Rutledge, New York, NY, and Carla Rutledge (Sean) Eustache (Huntersville, NC); one-step-grandson, Caleb Rutledge, Detroit, MI, one sister Inez Bates (L.W.) Sutton, Prentiss, MS; one brother, Larnell (Lorriane) Bates, Liberty, MS; one sister-in-law, Louisa Daniels, Los Angeles, CA, and a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives, and friends.



### "Don't Cry for Me"

Do not cry for me for I am not gone, I've left my memories to carry on.  
Do not cry for me for I am still here, I'm standing beside you, have no fear.  
Do not cry for me, for my work here is done, I've watched you all play and laugh in the sun.  
Do not cry for me, keep me lovingly in mind.

Do not cry for me, just think of me from time to time. Do not cry for me when the soft wind blows  
Do not cry for me because we all know, that life is full of changes and none of us can see,  
Just what the future holds in store-that's how it's meant to be.  
So don't cry for me though my journey may be long.  
Don't cry for me, smile a smile and carry on.



## Order of Service

Prelude .....	Bro. Fernando Dawson, Minister of Music First Emanuel Baptist Church - Baton Rouge, Louisiana
Processional .....	Ministers and Family
Mistress of Ceremony .....	Sis. Helen Boykins
Selection .....	"What a Friend We Have in Jesus" ..... Choir
Scriptures .....	Rev. Leon Hitchens Old Testament (Ecclesiastes 3:1-2, 4) New Testament (Matthew 5:4)
Prayer .....	Rev. Lee Allen Pounds Pastor, St. Helena Baptist Church - Greensburg, Louisiana; Sweet Home Baptist Church - Kentwood, Louisiana
Selection .....	"I'll Fly Away" ..... Choir
Expressions:	
As a Church Member .....	Dea. Robert Robinson
As a Neighbor .....	Bro. Curtis Osbey ..... Bro. Flozell Harness
As a Friend .....	Sis. Bundell Guyton ..... Sis. Helen Lea New Roads, Louisiana
As I Knew Her .....	Professor Patricia Hebert ..... Dr. Dwan M. Bridges Southern University - Baton Rouge, Louisiana Pasadena, California
Solo .....	Rev. Leon Hitchens
As an Educator .....	Sis. Fern M. White
As Former Students .....	Sis. Jessie Cline ..... Bro. Michael Bell Frisco, Texas Terry, Mississippi
Heroines of Jericho Tickfaw Court #474 .....	Heroine Francis Washington
Open Remarks .....	(Two Minutes, Please!)
Selection .....	"Hold to God's Unchanging Hand" ..... Choir
A Tribute to a "Pearl" .....	Dr. Theodore Pikes Durham, North Carolina
Acknowledgements .....	Sis. Helen Boykins
Solo.....	Sis. Melissa Lewis Hattiesburg, Mississippi
Words of Comfort .....	Rev. Gene Rives ..... Other Ministers Pastor, First United Methodist Church - Baker, Louisiana
Obituary .....	Dr. Michelle J. McCollin (Soft Music) Slippery Rock, Pennsylvania
Expressions of Gratitude .....	Sis. Dorothy Chesser
Solo .....	Bro. Fernando Dawson
Eulogy .....	Rev. Edward Moyese Boss
	Final Viewing Craft Funeral Home In Charge - McComb, Mississippi
Recessional .....	
Interment .....	Tickfaw Missionary Baptist Church Cemetery

---



## **In Loving Memory**

### **Our Mother**

#### *God Saw She Was Getting Tired*

God saw that she was getting tired, and a cure was not to be  
So He put His arms around her and whispered "come with me."  
With tearful eyes we watched her suffer and saw her fade away  
Although we loved her dearly, we could not make her stay.  
A golden heart stopped beating, hard working hands laid to rest.  
God broke our hearts to prove to us, He only takes the best.

Love Always,  
*Diane and Vera*

### **Our Sister**

#### *Things We Cannot Understand*

There are many things in life, that we cannot understand  
But we must trust God's judgment, and be guided by His hand  
And all who have God's blessings, can rest safely in His care  
For He promises safe passage, on the wings of faith and prayer!

We Love You,  
*Larnell, and Inez*

### **Our Grandmother**

#### *Grandmother's Wonderful Legacy*

There is a wonderful legacy, of which we wish to tell  
About a beautiful lady, that we loved so well  
Her strength lives within us, and grows stronger each day  
Her honor still lingers, though her life has slipped away  
She fought a good battle, then gave up the fight  
To rest in the arms of Jesus, what a beautiful sight  
In our hearts her memory, will always stay  
Nothing could ever take, her remembrance away.

With All Our Love,  
*Cavan, Carla, Christopher, and Caleb*

## Reflections





*Active Pallbearers*

Jasper Bates  
Milton Barnett Bates  
Willie Bates  
Larry Sutton  
LaRue Sutton  
Lawrence Sutton

*Honorary Pallbearers*

Larnell Bates  
L. W. Sutton  
Clifton Hamilton  
Charles Edward Rutledge  
Cavan Edward Rutledge  
Christopher Phillip Rutledge

*Flower Bearers*

Ushers, Deaconess, Mission Sisters, Heroines of Jericho, and Friends

**Do Not Stand at My Grave and Weep**



Do not stand at my grave and weep, I am not there; I do not sleep.  
I am a thousand winds that blow, I am the diamond glints on snow,  
I am the sun on ripened grain, I am the gentle autumn rain.  
When you awaken in the morning's hush, I am the swift uplifting rush  
Of quiet birds in circled flight, I am the soft stars that shine at night.  
Do not stand at my grave and cry, I am not there; I did not die.

--Anonymous

**Expressions of Gratitude**

The family of **Sis. Willie Pearl Bates Daniels** would like to express their deep appreciation to friends and neighbors for the many florals, prayers, cards, phone calls, food, and other acts of love and kindness during the illness and death of our mother. Special thanks to Rev. Boss, Rev. Hitchens, Rev. Rives, and other ministers for their words of comfort, encouragement, and prayers.

Our deep appreciation is also extended to the Tickfaw Missionary Baptist Church family, the First United Methodist Church family of Baker, Louisiana, and all program participants; the Fresenius Medical Center of Zachary, Louisiana; Canon Hospice, Caring Angels - LLC, the Baton Rouge General Hospital - Mid City of Baton Rouge, Louisiana; Hertlene Fomby of Birmingham, Alabama, and Craft Funeral Home of McComb, Mississippi for their efficient service.

May God Bless each of you is our prayer.

*The Daniels Family*

**Repast**

Immediately Following Entombment  
Larnell and Lorraine Bates (Howard Bates) Estate  
6019 Bates School Road • Liberty Mississippi

**Final Arrangement Entrusted to:**

Craft Funeral Home  
210 Martin Luther King Dr. • McComb, Mississippi