



Bernice Higgs

March 14, 1935 - October 4, 2012

BERNICE HIGGS, daughter of the late Robert Whitaker, Sr. and Hattie Smith, was born March 14, 1935 in Palmyra, North Carolina. Bernice received her education at Brawley High School, in Scotland Neck, North Carolina. Her continued education included studies at the following colleges and industries: Community College of Baltimore; The National Baptist Congress of Christian Education, and the Hampton University Ministers and Choir Director's Conference. She received her Bachelor of Arts in Theology from Virginia College and Seminary of Lynchburg, VA. She was employed by the Baltimore Public School System School System.

On November 23, 1953, Bernice joined in Holy Matrimony to her childhood sweetheart, the late Nathaniel Higgs, who she met at the age of nine. Together Bernice and Nathaniel build a God-fearing household filled with love and laughter.

Following the lead of her husband, in 1957, Bernice joined the Southern Baptist Church under the leadership of the late Rev. James R. Grant. In 1966, Bernice became leading lady in the Southern Baptist Church, holding numerous positions. As First Lady, she served as... Women's Day Chairlady, 1972 Vacation Bible School Director, 1972 Interim General Church Secretary, February- March 1980 Organizer & Editor of the Southern Baptist Church Courier, 1972-1980

Holy Land (Israel) Study Tour, 1983 Secretarial Staff First Lady Emeritus
2002-2012 She was a devoted member of the; Early Morning Choir Southern
Baptist Mass Choir New Members Counselors
Greater Baltimore Minister's Wives & Minister's Windows Fellowship Board of
Christian Education
Bulletin Board Ministry N.A.A.C.P. (Local and National) Co-Coordinator of the
Senior Citizen Auxiliary
Working member of the Church CARE COMMITTEE Member of the Secular
Educational Board of Community College of Baltimore Southern Baptist
Church Educational Scholarship Awards Commission, Inc.

Mrs. Higgs was widely known and recognized as a songstress throughout many churches in the Baltimore Metropolitan area. Many loved to hear her sing, a few of those she led were: God Specializes, The Broken Vessel, Precious Lord, He's Real, I Will Guide Thee, I Can Depend, I'm Happy with Jesus Alone, I'm Going Through, I'm Willing to Run All the Way, In The Garden and Lord I Thank You. She also enjoyed sewing, cooking, designing Booklets, decorating, caring, and sharing with others. She had a passion for gardening and growing flowers.

Like thousands of women and men every year; our loved one became a three-year Breast Cancer Survivor, until the early morning hours of October 4, 2012 when God laid all her pain and suffering to rest. She leaves to celebrate her life and cherish her memories: four sons, Nathaniel Jr., Marvin, Bruce, and David; four daughters, Angela, Carol, Melissa, and Rosita; one adopted son, Dr. Robert L. Hayes; one adopted daughter Peggy Kellam; four daughter-in-law, Marie, Trina, Joanne and Janet; one son-in-law, Melvin Davis; one sister, Stella Redfearn, five sisters-in-law; two brothers-in-law; fifteen grandchildren; and a host of other relatives and friends.

Cemetery Details

King Memorial Park Cemetery - Grand Heritage Chapel & Mausoleum

8710 Dogwood Rd.
Baltimore, MD 21244
(410) 944-8300
info@kingmemorialpark.com
<https://www.KingMemorialPark.com>

Previous Events

Public Viewing

OCT 10. 8:30 AM - 8:00 PM (ET)

March Funeral Homes - East Baltimore
1101 East North Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21202
(410) 727-3300
info@marchfh.com

Wake

OCT 11. 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Southern Baptist Church
1701 Chester Street
Baltimore, MD 21205

Service

OCT **11**. 7:00 PM (ET)

Southern Baptist Church
1701 Chester Street
Baltimore, MD 21205

Tribute Wall



“ *Bernice Higgs*

October 13, 2022 at 08:33 AM



“ *Sade lit a candle in memory of Bernice Higgs*



Sade - October 22, 2012 at 10:19 PM



“ *I'm so sorry for your loss and would like to offer my condolences to your family. Death is such a terrible thing for a family to go through, I actually lost my mom about 3yrs ago. I'm truly grateful that I have the truth about death and look forward to the future when there will be a resurrection of both the righteous and the unrighteous.”— ACTS 24:15. I'm sure you would love to see your dead loved one again in the coming Paradise here on earth! Again so sorry for your loss!!*

Ms Springer - October 20, 2012 at 07:54 AM



“ *Darlene Evans-roscoe lit a candle in memory of Bernice Higgs*



darlene evans-roscoe - October 19, 2012 at 04:18 PM

DE

To The Higgs Family I thought of your mother as a "second mother". She was always kind to us and had a warm gentle smile. She was a true "virtuous woman". We will miss her and continue to pray for the family. She would want us all to continue to "Depend On God". Rest in peace Mother Higgs. Darlene, Ciera, Anthony

darlene evans-roscoe - October 19, 2012 at 04:35 PM

AB

“ *AL-VIRGINIA BLANCH lit a candle in memory of Bernice Higgs*



AL-VIRGINIA BLANCH - October 12, 2012 at 12:22 AM

AB

MOTHER BERNICE HIGGS, YOU WILL TRULY BE MISSED AND I WILL NEVER FORGET ALL OF THE WISDOM AND KIND AND LOVING THINGS YOU HAVE DONE FOR ME. WELL DONE MY GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVICE I LOVE YOU MOTHER HIGGS....

AL-VIRGINIA BLANCH - October 12, 2012 at 12:26 AM

AB

SERVANT

AL-VIRGINIA BLANCH - October 12, 2012 at 12:27 AM

EC

“ *Elverta Chisley lit a candle in memory of Bernice Higgs*



Elverta Chisley - October 11, 2012 at 01:12 PM

MH

“ Ms Marion Hairston sent a virtual gift in memory of Bernice Higgs



ms marion hairston - October 11, 2012 at 12:25 PM

WS

“ I love you Aunt Bernice, you will be missed

Wardell Selby - October 11, 2012 at 11:59 AM

WS

“ I love love you Aunt Venice, You will be missed.

Wardell

Wardell Selby - October 11, 2012 at 11:57 AM

AB

“ AL V. BLANCH sent a virtual gift in memory of Bernice Higgs



AL V. BLANCH - October 11, 2012 at 01:57 AM

AB

REST IN PEACE MRS. BERNICE HIGGS, YOU WILL BE TRULY MISSED, I LOVE YOU , YOUR ARE NOW RESTING IN THE ARMS OF GOD THE FATHER, YOU NOW HAVE YOUR CROWN....

AL V. BLANCH - October 11, 2012 at 02:01 AM

GB

“ Gwendolyn Black lit a candle in memory of Bernice Higgs



gwendolyn black - October 10, 2012 at 04:11 PM

GB

To God be the glory thank you Higgs family for sharing mother Higgs we love you all from gwen, curtis, angel and sharmanique black

gwendolyn black - October 10, 2012 at 04:19 PM

DP

“ Deborah Smith-Pilson & Michael Pilson lit a candle in memory of Bernice Higgs



Deborah Smith-Pilson & Michael Pilson - October 10, 2012 at 02:35 PM

DP

Bernice, Higgs we love and miss you. May God continue to smile upon you and your family.

Deborah Smith-Pilson & Michael Pilson - October 10, 2012 at 02:40 PM

WP

“ Wanda Pittman-Parker lit a candle in memory of Bernice Higgs



Wanda Pittman-Parker - October 10, 2012 at 02:18 PM

DJ

“ *Deborah Johnson-Evans lit a candle in memory of Bernice Higgs*



Deborah Johnson-Evans - October 10, 2012 at 02:09 PM



“ *Sharing in the lost of our former 1st lady Mother Bernice Higgs, condolences to the family, Sis Loretta Johnson and family!*



October 10, 2012 at 10:23 AM

ME

“ *Michelle Elsey lit a candle in memory of Bernice Higgs*



Michelle Elsey - October 10, 2012 at 09:47 AM

CG

“ *Cheryl Gill lit a candle in memory of Bernice Higgs*



Cheryl Gill - October 09, 2012 at 08:52 PM

VI

“ Vicki lit a candle in memory of Bernice Higgs



vicki - October 09, 2012 at 12:46 PM

K.

“ I am so sorry for your lost. Losing a loved one is never easy. Jehovah God promises to do away with our suffering. In the bible at Revelation 21:4, it says "And he will wipe out every tear from their eyes, and death will be no more, neither will mourning nor outcry nor pain be anymore. The former things have passed away." How comforting it is to know what God has in store for us. I encourage you to read this in your own copy of the bible. I hope this helps during your time of need.

K.Phipps - October 09, 2012 at 07:13 AM

RG

“ Rhoda H. Gill-Anderson lit a candle in memory of Bernice Higgs



Rhoda H. Gill-Anderson - October 08, 2012 at 07:17 PM

YY

“ Your friends at the Y purchased the Mrs. Fields Nibblers® Sympathy Basket for the family of Bernice Higgs.



Your friends at the Y - October 08, 2012 at 03:14 PM

AC

“ Amom A And Marion T Carter lit a candle in memory of Bernice Higgs



Amom A and Marion T Carter - October 08, 2012 at 03:07 PM

AB

“ Al-Virginia Blanch sent a virtual gift in memory of Bernice Higgs



Al-Virginia Blanch - October 07, 2012 at 10:45 PM

AB

“ Al-Virginia Blanch lit a candle in memory of Bernice Higgs



Al-Virginia Blanch - October 07, 2012 at 10:37 PM

SE

“ *Shinette And Ellaine Epps lit a candle in memory of Bernice Higgs*



Shinette and Ellaine Epps - October 07, 2012 at 07:06 PM

AW

“ *Audrey & Traci White lit a candle in memory of Bernice Higgs*



Audrey & Traci White - October 07, 2012 at 03:25 PM

PL

“ *Dear family, I am sorry to have read about the loss of someone you dearly loved. Like all deaths the loss is very devastating. I know that Mrs Higgs will be missed by all. Death is not a requirement, it is a sentence put on us by Adam, Eve and Satan. Our God Jehovah has sentenced Satan to death for interfering in his plan for mankind. The Bible tells us at John 5:28.29. Marvel not at this for the hour is coming in which all those in the graves will hear his voice (Jesus) and come out. After that Psalms 37:29 tells us that they will inherit the earth and live forever upon it. But until that time comes we all have to put up with the death sentence that was brought upon us by Adam, Eve and God's enemy Satan the devil. In time Jehovah through his son Jesus Christ, will undo the damage caused by the devil. What a happy time it will be for millions to wake up from their sleep in death. May peace, and comfort be with the entire Higgs family.*

Peggy Land - October 07, 2012 at 11:28 AM

JW

“ J.J. & Donna Wright lit a candle in memory of Bernice Higgs



J.J. & Donna Wright - October 06, 2012 at 08:24 PM

JW

Our thoughts and prayers are with you all. In His time, may your hearts and souls find peace and comfort.
Love and God Bless,
J.J. & Donna

J.J. & Donna Wright - October 06, 2012 at 08:30 PM

GE

“ Gwen L. Evans lit a candle in memory of Bernice Higgs



Gwen L. Evans - October 06, 2012 at 05:48 PM



“ lit a candle in memory of Bernice Higgs



October 06, 2012 at 04:52 PM

MV

“ *Michelle Valentine lit a candle in memory of Bernice Higgs*



Michelle Valentine - October 06, 2012 at 11:12 AM

MV

Want to say that she will be miss.From Mary Valentine and the family.

Michelle Valentine - October 06, 2012 at 11:15 AM

LM

“ *Leron Montgomery lit a candle in memory of Bernice Higgs*



Leron Montgomery - October 06, 2012 at 09:50 AM

ME

“ *Marie Everett lit a candle in memory of Bernice Higgs*



Marie Everett - October 06, 2012 at 09:49 AM

LB

“ *Lisa Brown lit a candle in memory of Bernice Higgs*



Lisa Brown - October 05, 2012 at 08:04 PM

LB

To God be the Glory for the great things that he has done. It was a joy to have known Mrs. Bernice Higgs. She will be missed. I love that song that she would always sing, "I can depend on God." Pastor Higgs now has his queen. Love you always. Garry "Pete and Lisa Brown and family.

Lisa Brown - October 05, 2012 at 08:07 PM

PA

“ *My granddaughter Loreal and I will miss Mrs. Higgs. She was always there to give advise when we needed. Our prayers are with the family.*



Patricia Alston - October 05, 2012 at 07:49 PM

PA

“ *Patricia Alston lit a candle in memory of Bernice Higgs*



Patricia Alston - October 05, 2012 at 07:37 PM

CJ

“ *Charlotte Johnson lit a candle in memory of Bernice Higgs*



Charlotte Johnson - October 05, 2012 at 03:05 PM

RS

“ *Sorry to hear of your loss our thoughts and prays are with Jay and Lawrence Curtis*

Richad Sherman - October 05, 2012 at 01:37 PM

LE

“ *Lina Everett lit a candle in memory of Bernice Higgs*



Lina Everett - October 05, 2012 at 12:37 PM

MC

“ *Mary Conyers lit a candle in memory of Bernice Higgs*



Mary Conyers - October 05, 2012 at 10:41 AM

MC

A wonderful God fearing woman has gone to be with her Savior. My family and I are praying for this family.

Mary Conyers - October 05, 2012 at 10:47 AM

CF

May God ever Bless and keep the entire Higgs Legacy during this their hour of greif. Cheryl Frazier-Coleman

Cheryl Frazier-Coleman - October 05, 2012 at 11:02 AM

DB

“ A Great Woman Who gave So Much of her Time and talent to so many. She will Be missed but her contributions to her Family, Church , and community will NEVER BE FORGOTTEN. She Gave and did so much often not noticed. She never sought the spotlight and was always Kind ,Quiet , and Gentle A lady in every way. She will be missed but her LEGACY OF GIVING will stand the test of time.

Derod Broady

Derod Gregory Broady - October 05, 2012 at 10:41 AM



VG

“ Vanessa Goodwin lit a candle in memory of Bernice Higgs

Vanessa Goodwin - October 05, 2012 at 09:55 AM



KJ

“ Kim Johnson lit a candle in memory of Bernice Higgs

Kim Johnson - October 05, 2012 at 09:47 AM



DH

“ *Drucilla Hollie lit a candle in memory of Bernice Higgs*



Drucilla Hollie - October 05, 2012 at 06:23 AM

RE

“ *To be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord. We extend our deepest and heartfelt sympathy to the entire Higgs and Whitaker family in the passing of your loved one and our former 1st Lady of Southern Baptist Church, Mrs. Bernice Higgs. A true saint and soldier for the Lord has passed on to be with the Captain (King Jesus) and the love of rnevans1018@comcast.net her life (Pastor Higgs). May it comfort you to know that we along with the host of them that loved, admired, respected Mrs. Higgs are praying for you at this time. Please rest assured in knowing, "that earth has no sorrow that heaven cannot heal." Lovingly submitted - Roger, Gwen, Roger II and Ross Evans*

Roger N. Evans - October 04, 2012 at 09:32 PM

FB

WONDERFUL!

Floyd Brice - October 08, 2012 at 11:42 AM

AR

“ *Angela S. Rave lit a candle in memory of Bernice Higgs*



Angela S. Rave - October 04, 2012 at 04:41 PM

AR

Our deep sympathy to Bruce, Joann, and Blair Higgs. We know that Mrs. Higgs was very special to them.

David and Angela Rave, Albuquerque, New Mexico

Angela S. Rave - October 04, 2012 at 04:44 PM

RS

It is with great sadness to hear of the passing of your mother first lady Bernice Higgs, She will be greatly missed keeping you all in prayer. To God be glory for the great things he has done and is yet going to do in our lives. Be blessed in Jesus name. Richard Sherman and family. 5958 N.21st. St. Phila, Pa. 19138

Richard Sherman - October 04, 2012 at 05:39 PM



“ *We the March Family and Staff wish to extend our deepest and heartfelt sympathy in the passing of your loved one. Our prayers go out to you and your family in your time of loss. We know and understand that you have received many expressions of love and we will continue to lift you up in prayer. May the memories you cherish of brighter and happier days help to ease your sorrow and comfort you always.*

March Funeral Homes - October 04, 2012 at 01:16 PM

GB

As I look back and reflect on my childhood, I can just see First Lady Higgs, calmly entering the social hall of Southern Baptist Church with a smile and eagerness to worship the Lord. She was an excellent 1st lady, wife, mother, aunt, sister, grandma, but most of all she loved God with every breath in her. I appreciated her for being there for my Mom whenever she called upon her for advice and for being a second Mom to Pete. There was so much she did through her quiet spirit, that others knew nothing about. Her praise was so infectious!!!! "Lord, Lord, Lord" I can still hear her uttering as she went on in her worship with the Lord. I hoped she knew that all of us kids of "Southern" loved her very much and are grateful for everything she taught us. Rest on Sister Higgs, you are with your beloved now!!! I hope to feel your warm embrace someday! R.I.P. I'll always love you

Gleniss Brown-Wade

Gleniss Brown-Wade - October 05, 2012 at 01:41 PM