



Deaconess Elsie D. Gray

February 2, 1947 - May 16, 2023

Deaconess Elsie D. Gray, was the fourth child born to the late Albert Jr., and Will Frances Fields on February 2, 1947. She is preceded in death by her sister, Mrs. Peggy Sellars, and her bother, Mr. Percy Fields, Sr.

Elsie grew up in the Varina area, attended St. James School (Henrico Central), and graduated from Virginia Randolph High School in 1965. After graduating from high school, Elsie began her work career at Philip Morris USA, where she retired after 33 years in 1999.

At an early age, Elsie accepted Christ as her personal savior. She united with the St. James Baptist Church and served in several ministries including the Deaconess Ministry, Chairperson of the Pastoral Care Ministry, Treasurer of the George Smith Memorial Choir, the Deaconess of the Zarhites Sheepfold, a member of the Mass Choir, and served on the Culinary Ministry.

After "courting" for over three years, in 1977, Elsie married the love of her life and on January 29, 2023, they were blessed to celebrate forty-six years of matrimony.

Some of her favorite past times included collecting black dolls and figurines, cooking for family and friends (especially "chicken" for Mike), traveling with family and friends, especially with her PM 90/s family in February, and most of

all, she loved attending church.

She leaves to cherish her memories a devoted husband, Calvin (Mike) Gray; one stepson, Manuel Gray, Sr, one brother, James Fields, one sister, Evelyn Burrell, one brother-in-law, Leonard Gray, (Mattie), one sister in law, Brenda Gray; two nieces, Kara Graves (Wayne), a devoted niece. Tracey Fields; four: nephews, Kevin Burrell, Vincent (Candice) Burrell; Percy Fields, Jr., and Jemel Fields. She was also a step-grandmother to Queayana and Manuel Gray, Jr.; Godparent to Melody Mickens and Noah Troyer; a host of other relatives and friends.

Cemetery Details

St. James Cemetery

Henrico, VA

Previous Events

Public Viewing

MAY **25.** 9:30 AM - 6:00 PM (ET)

March Funeral Home-Laburnum Ave.
2110 E. Laburnum Ave.
Richmond, VA 23222

Celebration of Life

MAY **26.** 1:00 PM (ET)

St. James Baptist Church
2169 New Market Road
Richmond, VA 23231

Tribute Wall

AB

“ *Antoinette Brown lit a candle in memory of Deaconess Elsie D. Gray*



Antoinette Brown - May 26, 2023 at 06:28 PM

DJ

“ *Delcena And Ruffin Prentiss Jr lit a candle in memory of Deaconess Elsie D. Gray*



Delcena and Ruffin Prentiss Jr - May 25, 2023 at 03:56 PM

DJ

Condolences and heartfelt sympathy to Mike, Sister, Jimmie, the Field and Gray families. Elsie was a wonderful and comical friend in our church school classes and sheepfold activities. She will be missed. Elsie was a coworker of Ruffin's at PM. May the fond memories you all shared with her sustain today and in the future.

Delcena and Ruffin Prentiss Jr - May 25, 2023 at 04:04 PM

DJ

sustain you all

Delcena and Ruffin Prentiss Jr - May 25, 2023 at 04:07 PM

DJ

Del and Ruffin Prentiss

Delcena and Ruffin Prentiss Jr - May 25, 2023 at 04:08 PM

R-

“ Rosylin Coleman -Hobson lit a candle in memory of Deaconess Elsie D. Gray



Rosylin Coleman -Hobson - May 25, 2023 at 12:50 PM

R-

Tonight and the gray feels family. My condolences go out to you at this time night may God's blessings be with you and strengthen you. We are many good years at philomar and I will always remember Elsie God's blessings be with you. Rest on sweet lady

Rosylin Coleman -Hobson - May 25, 2023 at 12:52 PM

R-

Please forgive me for some of text., To Mike and your family. I was using the ✎. We had many Good year's at P.M. USA. Rest easy sweet lady. Gods strength you at this time.

Rosylin Coleman -Hobson - May 25, 2023 at 12:57 PM

SF

“ Mike, Elsie was so helpful when I first became a supervisor and and I learned a lot from her while at 20th st. You were so lucky to have such a wonderful person in your life. Steve Finch

Stephen Finch - May 24, 2023 at 01:03 PM

BF

“ Brenda Fields Hunt & Family purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Deaconess Elsie D. Gray.



Brenda Fields Hunt & Family - May 23, 2023 at 03:07 PM

J&

“ Jimmy and Patricia Johnson & Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Elsie D. Gray.

Jimmy and Patricia Johnson & Family - May 22, 2023 at 05:02 PM

J&

“ Jimmy and Patricia Johnson & Family purchased the Beautiful Heart Bouquet for the family of Deaconess Elsie D. Gray.



Jimmy and Patricia Johnson & Family - May 22, 2023 at 05:02 PM

TL

“ To The Gray Family, Our deepest sympathy in the loss of your sister, wife, and best friend. During this time of loss may God grant you peace, strength, and comfort knowing that she is resting in the arms of our Savior. Keep her memories in your heart.
Tim and Wanda Lark



Tim and Wanda Lark - May 22, 2023 at 04:41 PM

FL

To Mike and family, heartfelt sympathy and prayers for you and your family..
Frankie Lewis

Florence Lewis - May 22, 2023 at 05:29 PM

FL

To Mike and family, heartfelt sympathy and prayers for and your family.

Florence Lewis - May 23, 2023 at 01:55 PM

RT

“ To Mike, Sister and the Gray Family, what beautiful memories of Elsie that we have. Such a warm , loving and caring heart. And the most endearing hospitality. I will never forget our Sunday School classes and fellowship. Hold on to your memories! God knows best and she has passed her test. William & Renita Thornton and Bernard&Shirley Browns Robinson

Renita B. Thornton - May 22, 2023 at 05:03 AM

BW

“ Best Pew Partner ever . You will be missed . Thanks for all we shared .

BRENDA WHITE - May 21, 2023 at 08:22 PM

JB

“ To Mike, Deacon Burrell, Gray & Fields families, please accept our deepest sympathies during this difficult time. May happy memories give you comfort and peace. Mrs. Elsie , as I fondly called her, will always be remembered in our hearts. We love you and are here for you. James & Brenda Britton.

James & Brenda Britton - May 19, 2023 at 09:55 AM

DP

“ To The Family and Friends of Elsie D. Gray Lord, we know that You are the God who comforts. I pray that You provide a time of comfort, peace, and rest for those whose hearts are hurting right now. Hold them in Your embrace, Father. Wrap them in Your love and remind them that though they may have lost someone dear, they are not alone, for You are with them. Bring to them the hope of Your unfailing love. I offer this prayer for healing their hearts as they learn to navigate life without their loved ones. Let them find serenity in You, knowing their loved one is at peace in Your arms. I pray they take comfort in knowing that their loved one is already in a better place. In Your most Holy name, I pray. Amen.



Debbie E Peppers - May 18, 2023 at 08:43 PM

GL

To Mike, Evelyn, Jimmy and the entire Fields family. May God give you peace and comfort as you grieve. I pray that Elsie is saved and is with God.

Gale Lewis - May 22, 2023 at 12:01 PM

FP

My deepest Condolences to the family.

Faye Parham - May 22, 2023 at 04:27 PM

ST

Praying for comfort and peace during this difficult time.

Sharon Charity taylot - May 25, 2023 at 02:24 PM

JS

“ To Mike and the Gray family,
May GOD grant you peace that only HE can
grant. May your memories fill the void that
you now have. Much love to the family

Joy Smith



Joy Smith - May 18, 2023 at 05:31 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 - May 18, 2023 at 03:04 PM