



Rev. John Avery Miller

July 6, 1951 - August 12, 2015

The Life of Reverend John Avery Miller

A Time to Be Born... Pastor John Avery Miller was born on July 6, 1951 in Accomack County, Virginia to John and Beatrice Miller. He was affectionately called “John Avery” by his family.

A Time to Learn... John was educated in the Accomack County Public School System, and earned a Bachelor’s degree from Virginia State University in Petersburg, Virginia.

A Time to Harvest... Before being called into the ministry, he was employed by the Federal Bureau of Prisons as a Parole Officer for many years.

A Time for Love... John married the love of this life, Eileen Roberta Morgan in 1990 and they were blessed to share five children between them.

A Time for Joy... John loved to laugh and to “cut up”. He enjoyed cooking and watching people eat his cooking. He loved spending time with his family and having “garage talks” with his neighbors, Robert (Bob) and Anne Jewell.

A Time for Faith... He accepted Jesus at a young age, attended church and was brought up knowing the Lord. John’s love for the Lord motivated him to

earn a Master's degree from Duke Divinity School in Durham, North Carolina. As a long time faithful servant in the Virginia Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, he was a three-time recipient of the Denman Evangelism Award. On one particular occasion, before delivering God's Word to an anticipative congregation, his late wife Eileen introduced her husband as one who can kick up dust on a muddy road. Other accolades include receiving the Circuit Rider Award twice, and the Town and Country Preacher Award. One of his greatest honors was accepting the Bishops' request to deliver a sermon at one of the Virginia Annual Conferences. For over thirty years, he served several churches throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia. After retiring as Pastor from Pleasant View United Methodist Church in Waynesboro, he worshipped and served at Rising Mount Zion Baptist Church in Richmond, Virginia.

A Time to Die... John departed this life on August 12, 2015, with his daughter by his side.

A Time to Mourn... Precious relatives who preceded John in death were his father John Augusta Miller; grandmother, Vilinia Brown (affectionately called "Nana"); wife, Eileen Roberta Morgan Miller; and son, Sarif Stewart. Besides his loving mother, Beatrice Miller, memories will be shared by his devoted daughter, Jonilla Dargan (Shadrick); sons, Jamar Stewart (Debra) and John Dickerson; daughter, Tia Stewart; a sister, Odessa Downing (Larry); brothers, Rev. Gary Miller (Tampa) and Connell Lankford (Renee); seven grandchildren: Malik, Anya, Sarif Jr., Cheyenne, Ja'Marquise, Quory, and Drue. He also leaves an abundance of nieces, nephews, cousins, other relatives, in-laws and a multitude of friends

Cemetery Details

Riverview Cemetery

420 Rosser Ave.
Waynesboro, VA 22980

Previous Events

Public Viewing

AUG 17. 9:00 AM - 8:00 PM (ET)

March Funeral Homes - Laburnum Chapel
2110 E. Laburnum Avenue
Richmond, VA 23222
(804) 321-4200
info@marchfh.com
<https://www.marchfuneralhomevirginia.com/>

Service

AUG 18. 11:00 AM (ET)

Rising Mt. Zion Baptist Church
2705 Hartman Street
Richmond, VA 23223

Tribute Wall



“ *Rev. John Avery Miller*

October 13, 2022 at 08:33 AM



“ *That was my grandpa! I have his neckalace he is a great person*

Anya - March 31, 2020 at 02:12 PM



“ *Dear Family,*

We learned today from the Internet, June 18, 2016, of John's passing. Our hearts are grieved as we loved him as friends from the days of Virginia State University and forward as he became Rev. Miller. We knew his family on the Eastern Shore and had visited them many years ago with John. We also knew Eileen. Our prayers are with you.

In Christ,

*Eddy and Linda Campbell
Upper Marlboro, Maryland
jeclmc1@aol.com*

Eddy and Linda Campbell - June 18, 2016 at 08:32 PM

EH

“ To the family of Rev. Miller,
I send my sincere condolences to you on the passing of Rev. Miller. I was fortunate to meet him about three years ago and served as his clothier. I've never met a person that had such an impact on my life. He encouraged me in my walk with God and calling to ministry and shared a lot of wisdom I will never forget. My last memory was him trying to convince me that a certain kind of fish had the best taste and he was going to bring it to the store to prove his point. He will truly be missed.



Elder Charles Hataway - August 21, 2015 at 01:15 PM

JC

“ To the Family of Our Cousin Rev. John Avery Miller. It is certainly sad to here of his passing, but a Child and Messenger of God We all know that John Avery will certainly light up the Gates of Heaven. From his birth John Avery was a very kind and gentle person. Although our family moved away to Philadelphia in our early years his memory will always be cherished. May God continue to bless you all with memories of John Avery. Prayerfully, Jerry Conquest and Vivian Reni Conquest-Green of Jonesboro/Riverdale, Georgia

Jerry & Reni Conquest - August 17, 2015 at 07:40 AM

PV

“ Pleasant View United Methodist Church Family, Waynesboro VA purchased the Lavender Reflections Spray for the family of Rev. John Avery Miller.



Pleasant View United Methodist Church Family, Waynesboro VA - August 16, 2015 at 11:15 PM

JO

“ TO THE FAMILY OF REV. JOHN AVERY MILLER :
MY PRAYERS ARE WITH EACH OF YOU IN THE PASSING OF A GREAT MAN. THE REV. CARL B. HUTCHERSON JR & THE MEMBERS OF FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH SOUTH LYNCHBURG WAS DEEPLY SADDEN IN THE HEARING OF REV MILLER'S PASSING. HE WAS JUST AT OUR CHURCH ON JULY 19 HELPING US CELEBRATE PASTOR'S HUTCHERSON 7TH. ANNIVERSARY. OH WHAT A SERMON HE GAVE US. REV. MILLER I KNOW YOU ARE FLYING HIGH. RIP.



JOANNE - August 16, 2015 at 10:10 PM

CS

“ *Rev Miller, you will be forever remembered at Rising Mt Zion Baptist.*
The prayer you prayed on first Sunday was so powerful little did we know that was your final service. You have earned your wings . May God bless your family during this time of bereavement.
The Snead's

Cynthia Davis Snead - August 16, 2015 at 10:08 PM



“ *Pastor Miller I will forever be grateful to you because you are the first pastor that baptized my daughter and I. I would be excited to come to church to just hear what your sermons were going to be about. And also you sure could cook!! Your mac and cheese was the best ever!! You will forever be in my heart!!! Rest in peace!*

Andrea Wallace - August 16, 2015 at 07:40 AM

EJ

“ Y



eartha johnson - August 15, 2015 at 07:08 PM

IF

“ *Idena Flipping sent a virtual gift in memory of Rev. John Avery Miller*



Idena Flipping - August 15, 2015 at 12:41 PM

IF

“ *Idena Flipping sent a virtual gift in memory of Rev. John Avery Miller*



Idena Flipping - August 15, 2015 at 12:30 PM

DB

“ *To Pastor Miller, I remember the first time I met you I knew I was in the present of someone great. That was the day that I started my Christian walk and I just want to say Thank You Lord. You will be truly missed here on earth but God has called his angel home. To the family I want to say Thank you for sharing him with me and my family and the people of Pleasant View United Methodist Church he was truly a God send. RIP Pastor J. Avery Miller*

Doris B. Barbour - August 15, 2015 at 06:36 AM

LW

“ *Deepest condolences to the Miller family from Dea's Chapel UMC. Horntown Charge*

Linda Wallop - August 14, 2015 at 09:13 PM

RT

“ *Rev Miller was truly a great leader, pastor, big brother and true friend. He will forever be in our treasured memories. His calls, day and night, laughter, dinners and shopping sprees will be missed. A beautiful angel. Take flight friend and soar. Love, William and Renita Thornton*

renita thornton - August 14, 2015 at 06:48 PM



Amanda Taylor

“ *Pastor Miller will forever be missed! Condolences to the family! You were a wonderful teacher and leader! Gonna miss you saying "cut the drama"! The Goodwin Family will forever miss you!*

Amanda Taylor - August 14, 2015 at 06:12 PM

DS

“ *Rev John Avery, oh how I loved youthe preaching, teaching, singing, laughing, spinning around at Jubilee Day...God gifted you with it all. Rest in Peace. Our prayers are with the family...Cousin Audrey Savage and family. We love you all!*

Darlene Savage - August 14, 2015 at 05:08 PM

VH

“ We, as members of the New London United Methodist Church and surrounding community, do sadly offer our condolences to the family of the Rev. Miller. Our hearts were saddened to learn of the his passing, even as we fondly recall memories of the joyous times Rev. Miller brought to our community for so many years. Respectfully submitted by Delores Nash Hicks and family.

Vincent Hicks - August 14, 2015 at 04:27 PM

TM

“ Sending our deepest condolences and prayers to Jonilla Moore & the Miller family! Love Tia Murdock & family ❤️



Tia Murdock - August 14, 2015 at 03:40 PM

CH

“ Pastor Miller, I never thought this day would come this soon. Some our family's best years in this Christian walk was under your ministry. The laughs, the long talks, the arguments, the trips to get ice cream, the phone call to come get my dish of macaroni and cheese or "Chanda I just took the pound cake out the oven!" All you heard was a dial tone and your doorbell ringing because I was at the door with my container. LOL The times you made up words well almost every time you made up words to a song and made it a hit gospel record and the choir just kept on singing back up. I could go on and on....but I won't. Take your rest....your work here is done. To the family, thank you for sharing him with us. The McGuffin family will continue to pray your strength in the Lord. Be strong and good courage. And as Pastor Miller would always recite that scripture, weeping may endure for a night, BUT JOY comes in the morning!

We love you Pastor J. Avery Miller.....Carolyn, Channing (Champ), Chanda, Kelly and the kids

Chanda - August 14, 2015 at 01:37 PM

RJ

“ Ruth Jackson lit a candle in memory of Rev. John Avery Miller



Ruth Jackson - August 14, 2015 at 12:41 PM

LJ

“ Sending our deepest sympathy to the family of Pastor Miller. Pastor was always the man of the hour when presenting Gods word. His singing was a great inspiration and he will be greatly missed. He has left behind many fond memories and will never be forgotten. You are in our thoughts and prayers.

God Bless
Stanley, Leslie, & Shakia Jackson

Leslie Jackson - August 14, 2015 at 08:10 AM

LL

“ Pastor John A Miller I'm so glad I had the pleasure to be blessed by your friendships as well as being my Pastor I will always hold our conversations close to my Heart!!! Im truly gonna miss you so now your will Jesus bless them with your Favorite song I won't Complain.... Gone but Never Forgotten Matthew and Latayna(Teann) Long and Toneshia

Latayna Long - August 13, 2015 at 07:47 PM

RJ

“ To the family of Pastor Miller, sorry for your loss . We are praying for you, that you will remember all the good times ,you had with him. He will be missed . Roger and Dorothy Jenkins



Roger and Dorothy Jenkins - August 13, 2015 at 07:19 PM

KA

“ To the family of Pastor Miller we send you all our deepest sympathy. Pastor was a man of God. You all are in our thoughts & prayers. Pastor will be missed.

God Bless,
Frank, Kay, Bria, Jordan Alexander



Kay Alexander - August 13, 2015 at 06:37 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 - August 13, 2015 at 04:56 PM