



## Marie B. Chavis

August 21, 1924 - March 12, 2021

Marie Chavis was born in Roanoke Rapids, North Carolina August 21, 1924 to Louise and Eddie Bobbitt. She was the second child of 11 children.

Marie attended school in Halifax County, NC and graduated from John Armstrong Challenger. Marie was conscientious and was determined to finish school. Being the second oldest, she was responsible for chores before and after school and had to care for the other siblings.

After high school, Marie came to Baltimore with the intent to go to cosmetology school, earn income with enough to live on and send money back home to help with the family. She stayed with her cousin Serena Simms when she first came to Baltimore. Here she met Alease Howell, who was renting a room in the house, and they remained best friends. Alease's boyfriend, John Howell, introduced Marie to his brother Willard Howell. They fell in love and married. Three children were born out of their union.

Marie believed she had to find a church because she was raised that you do nothing on Sunday until after Sunday School. She and her girlfriend Alease looked for churches. They visited Charity Baptist where their boyfriends went. They both joined early 1940's under Rev. James Wilkins in a house church. After Rev. Wilkins pastorship, Rev. Thomas C. Turner took over and started building the church. Our aunt, Annie Howell, had her family there (her son Roy

Lee Howell, John, James and Willard Howell). Marie first assisted Ms. Annie in what we now consider youth ministry—teaching the little ones. After joining the Usher Board, she became financial secretary. For the Senior Choir she was financial secretary and president. She was the financial secretary for the Missionary Guild. One Sunday Rev. Turner announced from the pulpit he was making her treasurer of the pastor's aide, so that's what she became. For many years, Marie served as the Church Clerk.

The family were East Baltimoreans living on Sterling Street, Aisquith Street, Central Avenue, and Eager Street before moving to Woodbourne Ave. That in itself was quite progressive since Blacks in the mid 60's were struggling to get into neighborhoods outside of the inner city. Our family was the first Black family on that strip of Woodbourne Ave.

While on Eager Street, she started working in the beauty shop on the first floor of her house washing hair. Ms. Edith, owner, suggested, so she go to beautician school. Between the school and on- the-job-training she got her license and did hair. Marie worked as a seamstress with plans to take up tailoring until that was interrupted by the birth of a not so healthy son. Due to the fact her first child Eddie was born sickly, she stopped full-time work and school until his health improved. Ambitiously, she started back working here and there to allow herself to still be there for Eddie. Aunt Annie and others stepped in to care for Eddie. Odd jobs like sewing, working as a beautician, domestic work, part time cleaning at Charity and a plumbing business allowed Marie to have an income. Her last job was in retail at Linda Lynn's. After retiring from Linda Lynn's she took on the task of day care provider and took courses for that profession. She remained friendly with some of those children until her death. She cared for her grandchildren as well to allow her daughter to work with peace of mind. Every week Marie got \$20 worth of gas and her outreach was to help chauffeur seniors and sick people.

After being single for many years, Rev. Turner suggested a few times that she get married again. God confirmed that to Marie. The hard work of trying to solely up keeping her home while also working fulltime and spending many hours in church ministry, was taking its toll on her body. Her good friend at Charity, Odessa Roland, introduced Marie to her brother, Willie Chavis and love blossomed. They were married in 1976 until his death in 1996.

With her letter in hand from Charity, Marie was a watch care member at her husband's church, Fountain Baptist. She continued ministry by joining the choir and missionary guild. She attended Sunday School and Bible Study faithfully and developed lasting friendships that remained until most friends, also up in age, one-by-one passed away. Marie returned to First Charity under Pastor Hollis Neal and was re-baptized by her grandson, Rev. Christopher Rogers. Marie finished her race at home with daughters and grandchildren. She quietly drew her last breath and was welcomed home by Christ the morning of March 12th.

Marie's legacy will continue as she leaves to cherish her memories; daughters: Areh Osaji Howell and Essie Lavonne Smith. Preceded her in death, son Edward W. Howell (Ozelle). Grandchildren: Robin Harris (Eric, Sr.), Glenn Smith (Sass), Kenneth Rogers, II, Jonathon Rogers, Christopher Rogers (Latisha) and Michael Smith; 13 great grandchildren; dear nieces and nephews; cousins and close friendships.

Preceded Marie in death: Husbands - Willard Howell (1926-1993) and Willie Chavis (1905-1996). Parents - Eddie and Louise Bobbitt. Siblings - Almeda Bobbitt, Daisy Stevenson, Edmund Bobbitt, Helena Grant, James Bobbitt, Joseph Bobbitt, Louise Bobbitt, Martha Martin, Olivia Williams and Robert Bobbitt. Granddaughter Yolanda Thomas.

Remember not my fight for life, Remember not the strife

Please do not dwell upon my death, But celebrate my life and legacy of love!

# Cemetery Details

## Druid Ridge Cemetery

7900 Park Heights Avenue

# Previous Events

## viewing

MAR 26. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

March Funeral Homes - West Baltimore  
4300 Wabash Avenue  
Baltimore, MD 21215  
(410) 542-2400  
info@marchfh.com

## Wake

MAR 27. 9:30 AM - 10:00 AM (ET)

1st Charity Baptist Church  
5601 Bowleys Lane

## Service

MAR 27. 10:00 AM (ET)

1st Charity Baptist Church  
5601 Bowleys Lane

# Tribute Wall



“ *Marie B. Chavis*

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October 13, 2022 at 08:33 AM



“ *Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Marie B. Chavis.*



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March 25, 2021 at 04:40 PM



“ *Jimmy Howell & Family purchased the Strength & Solace Spray for the family of Marie B. Chavis.*



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**Jimmy Howell & Family** - March 25, 2021 at 01:01 PM

AH

“ Hello Mom,

*Didn't know August 2020 would be your last birthday. Did not know when you went to the hospital that would be our last conversation. Had I known, I would have spent more time talking to and loving you. I remember when I was little; I was your shadow and said we would always live together. As you raised us to be responsible adults, we all ventured out, got married, had spouses and children. We too instilled the principles of the Bible and the importance of Christ as Savior into our children and grandchildren. Church was always the main part of our lives. Normally 3 services on Sunday plus Sunday School. I now stand at awe and wonder how in the world did you do that? Work, be a full-time mom, and so many hours devoted to church worker. I remember the time spent on the phone getting the church dates in order, the many calls from members about other auxiliary business, kitchen work, and going to rehearsals. Just Amazing!!! I too, as you taught me mom, dedicated myself to church work. Just like you mom--choir, youth ministry, Sunday School, missionary, sick visitation, helping the poor and lots of kitchen work :-). I hope I made you proud of me. Now that you are gone on to heaven, I miss you down here. We did not live together always, the responsibilities of adulthood interrupted living together always. Rest assured, we will live together again and the next time it will be forever. LOVE YOU FOREVER MOM. AREH.*



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**Areh Howell** - March 25, 2021 at 12:34 PM

KS

“ Kenneth, Sr. purchased the Memories to Treasure for the family of Marie B. Chavis.



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**Kenneth, Sr.** - March 24, 2021 at 02:57 PM



“ Miss you Great Grandma but so glad your not in any more pain. Say hello to Grandad for me. Love you. RIP



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**J Monet Harris** - March 24, 2021 at 02:39 PM

JH

“ Joy Honeghan lit a candle in memory of Marie B. Chavis



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**Joy Honeghan** - March 23, 2021 at 01:59 PM

JT

“ JH School of Nursing NORA Team purchased the Gracious Lavender Basket for the family of Marie B. Chavis.



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**JH School of Nursing NORA Team** - March 21, 2021 at 07:51 PM

RF

“ *Randhal Tabb & Family purchased the Love Everlasting Bouquet for the family of Marie B. Chavis.*



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**Randhal Tabb & Family** - March 19, 2021 at 11:38 PM

DB

“ *To the Chavis and Howell family. Sorry to hear of the passing of your mother. Sending condolences from North Carolina. Lizzie Cooper Buie and Family.*

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**Danita Buie** - March 19, 2021 at 07:25 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.*

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**March Funeral Homes** - March 13, 2021 at 12:34 PM

SB

*With sympathy, the Boykins family extend sincere condolences in the passing of this Godly matriarch. "Our tears may fall silently, our hearts grieve quietly, but God hears our cries and shares in all of our sorrows." May the peace of God rest, rule and abide in your hearts for such a time as this.*

*The Boykins Family*

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**Samuel Boykins** - March 17, 2021 at 09:25 PM

RT

*Cherishing memories of our dear Mrs. Marie, who has been a treasure and a blessing all of my life. My gratitude is eternal. My thoughts and prayers are with you. She loved her family fiercely and her legacy will continue to shine through all those she nurtured and were touched by her presence. Sending love <3*

*Randhal Tabb & Family*

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**Randhal Tabb** - March 19, 2021 at 11:44 PM