



Mary Catherine "Kitty" Smith

January 22, 1944 - July 27, 2023

Life Legacy

Rev. Dr. Mary Catherine Smith was born on January 22, 1944, in Baltimore, Maryland. As one of 17 brothers and sisters, she quickly and proudly claimed her birthright as the only child born to Bishop Heber M. Brown, Sr., and Ruby Forbes.

"Kitty," as she was affectionately known, grew up in Baltimore and was educated in Baltimore Public Schools. A self-described "poor black girl from Fairfield Projects who made it all the way to the White House," Kitty's humble beginnings propelled her to climb to the highest heights personally, professionally, and academically. She received a Bachelor of Science Degree from Morgan State University; a Master of Arts from Antioch University; and a Doctor of Ministry from Virginia University of Lynchburg, School of Religion.

Dr. Smith worked for nearly 20 years at the Headquarters office of the Social Security Administration where she traveled the country leading workshops on sexual harassment and equality for women long before those issues were part of public discourse. The highlight of her career in the federal government was being honored by former First Lady Patricia Nixon in 1975. She had tea with Nixon at the White House and that evening received a national volunteer award at the Kennedy Center. At the time of her retirement, Dr. Smith was the

National Director of Women's Affairs at the Social Security Administration.

She moved to Charlotte County, Virginia, in 1983 and worked as a social worker with the Department of Social Services. In 1989 she was appointed Legislative Assistant in the Virginia General Assembly and worked several years as a member of the Virginia House of Delegates.

In 1994 "Rev. Kitty" was appointed Minister of Christian Education at Race Street (Jericho) Baptist Church in Farmville, Virginia. At the same time, she started her own consulting agency, "Smith and Associates," and traveled extensively conducting job readiness and personal development workshops for women receiving public assistance. In 1997 she became Pastor of the Oak Grove Baptist Church in Buckingham, Virginia. It was no secret that being a pastor was not her first choice of profession, but she answered the call and held the line with humility and a deep commitment to service for 25 years.

In June 2005, Pastor Smith was consecrated Overseer for the State of Virginia Praise Covenant Interdenominational Fellowship of Churches which is headquartered in Baltimore, Maryland. Dr. Smith has received countless awards, citations, and commendations. She wore many hats and titles and was known in many capacities, including radio broadcaster, civic leader, mentor, and community activist.

A lifelong learner, she proudly walked across the stage at age 63 to accept her doctorate in ministry.

Her life experiences, victories, and valleys were the backdrop for many of her most soul-stirring sermons: The Taming of the Shrew, Wandering in the Wilderness, Some Good Things About Bad Women, If Not Now Then When?, Being Battle Ready, Can You Stand to be Blessed and The Anatomy of Love.

Family members who preceded her in death include Rev. Eric Lorenzo

Caraway, Sr. (son), Bishop Heber Brown, Sr. (father), Ruby “Mama Ruby” Forbes (mother), Beatrice Smith and Billie Thrower (sisters), Dabney Smith (husband), Leroy Norris, James Forbes and Jerry Norris (brothers).

She leaves to celebrate her life: Daughter (in-law), Katrina Morris; three grandchildren, Chanel (William Keith), Eric, Jr., and Erin; two great-grandchildren, Charlotte Rose and William Gavin; four brothers, Richard (Jean) Norris of Maryland; Carl (Joyce) Norris of Arizona; Bishop Heber (Jacqueline) Brown of Maryland, and Pastor James (Marilyn) Brown of New Jersey; seven sisters: Mary Cooper, Betty Gordon, Rose (Sloan) Gordon of Pennsylvania; Beatrice (Winston) Bethea, and Cora (Albert) Hardy of New Jersey; Shirley (Rudolph) Isabelle; Anna (James) Forbes of Maryland. A vast host of other relatives, extended family, church members, and friends enriched her life with immense love and support.

In her own words: “I am proud of all of my life experiences. There have been some valleys and some hills, but the hills have outnumbered the valleys.”

“He that dwelleth in the secret place
of the Most High shall abide under
the shadow of the Almighty...” Psalm 91

Cemetery Details

Roselawn Memory Gardens

13389 Mountain Road
Glen Allen, VA 23059

Previous Events

Public Visitation

AUG 11. 9:30 AM - 6:00 PM (ET)

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

Celebration of Life

AUG 12. 12:00 PM (ET)

Morning Star Baptist Church
3509 Midlothian Turnpike
Richmond, VA 23224

Interment

AUG 15. 12:00 PM (ET)

Roselawn Memory Gardens
13389 Mountain Road
Glen Allen, VA 23059

Tribute Wall

JP

“ Our sincere condolences to the Family of Dr. Kitty Smith. She was a strong, motivating woman of God! We were students in some of her Theology classes and also attended some spirit-filled services under her direction. May God give the family peace.

Van and Joanne Petty

Joanne Petty - August 12, 2023 at 02:10 AM



KW

“ My condolences to Dr. Rev. Kitty Smith family! She is woman who truly lived a life of legacy.

Kristina Walker - August 11, 2023 at 10:43 PM

JV

“ Rev. Kitty was truly a blessed woman of God and a shining light showing so many the way to salvation. She will be sorely missed by her friends at Sharon Baptist in Cumberland and as a personal friend to me. My condolences to the family.

JoAnn Vaughan

JoAnn Vaughan - August 11, 2023 at 10:24 AM





“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Mary Catherine "Kitty" Smith.*



August 11, 2023 at 09:26 AM



“ *Elder E. Alonzo Streat lit a candle in memory of Mary Catherine "Kitty" Smith*



Elder E. Alonzo Streat - August 11, 2023 at 08:55 AM



“ *Bountiful Memories Casket Spray was purchased for the family of Mary Catherine "Kitty" Smith.*



August 10, 2023 at 08:47 PM



“ *THE CHARLOTTE COUNTH NAACP purchased the Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet for the family of Mary Catherine "Kitty" Smith.*



THE CHARLOTTE COUNTH NAACP - August 10, 2023 at 03:31 PM

TN

“ THE CHARLOTTE COUNTH NAACP planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Rev. Dr. Mary Catherine Smith.

THE CHARLOTTE COUNTH NAACP - August 10, 2023 at 03:31 PM

KB

“ Kevin and Vernetta Bolden purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Mary Catherine "Kitty" Smith.



Kevin and Vernetta Bolden - August 10, 2023 at 11:36 AM

VB

“ We extend our deepest sympathy to the family of Rev. Dr. Kitty Smith. She was constant light and guidance in our lives. We loved her and she will be greatly missed.

Rev. Kevin and Min. Vernetta Bolden

Vernetta Bolden - August 10, 2023 at 11:29 AM



“ Oak Grove Baptist Church
2083 S. James Madison Highway
Farmville VA 23901

*Resolution of Respect for
Rev. Dr. Mary “Kitty” Catherine Smith*

*We are today comforted with the words of Our Lord in Revelations
21:4 which says:*

*“And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall
be no more
death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any mor
pain; for the
former things are passed away.”*

*Whereas, Pastor Mary Catherine “Kitty” Smith, of the Oak Grove
Baptist Church, passed from this life on July 27, 2023, and;*

*Whereas, it has pleased Almighty God to take unto Himself Pastor
Smith, too soon by our measure, but in the providence of the All-
knowing Divine, and*

*Whereas, in God's holy wisdom, He has called home Pastor Smith
to dwell with Him in the glories of Paradise, the officers and
members of Oak Grove Baptist Church offer their sincere
condolences to the family. Your sorrow is our sorrow; your loss is
magnified by the loss of a dear soul from our congregation, and*

*Whereas, Pastor Smith served this earthly Kingdom with devout
ministrations to this Church. For over 25 years, Pastor Smith
worked diligently to move this congregation forward in ministry and*

community awareness. Pastor Smith initiated a weekly Bible Study and obtained grants for the church which resulted in projects to expand and strengthen the Youth Department. Dr. Smith conducted workshops and programs not just for the church but for the community. As a result of her leadership, Oak Grove is a national member of the Praise Covenant Fellowship of Churches. We love Pastor Smith and will always hold her in high esteem.

Whereas, our cherished Pastor Smith shared the fruits of her labor as a principled and successful business owner and civic leader and contributed generously to Church missions, and

Whereas, Pastor Smith performed her work on this earth and offered her service to this church for the greater honor and glory of God, unreservedly and in a spirit of humility, and

Whereas, we have each of us been blessed by the presence of Pastor Smith in our lives and in our congregation.

Therefore, be it resolved that we embrace this bereaved family, in our common bond of grief and remembrance of a beloved soul.

And therefore, be it resolved that we bow in acceptance of the perfection of God's plan to gather each of us into His merciful arms when we have fulfilled our task on this earth.

Be it further resolved, that a period of official mourning shall be observed for 30 days by the presence of an empty seat in Church services to acknowledge the passing of our esteemed Pastor Smith and that a copy of this resolution be given to the family and a copy kept in the Church archives.

In the words of John, Chapter 14, verses 1 - 3:

"Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me.

"In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?

"And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will

take you to myself, that where I am you may be also."

Be at peace in the everlasting love of the Lord.

*Respectfully submitted on this 12th day of August 2023 on behalf of:
the Officers and Members of the Oak Grove Baptist Church,
Buckingham, Virginia.*

*Deacon Jackie Ayers, Chair
Sister Marjorie Carter, Church Clerk*

Oak Grove Baptist Church - August 10, 2023 at 10:48 AM

LB

“ *LINDA BRAXTON lit a candle in memory of
Mary Catherine "Kitty" Smith*



LINDA BRAXTON - August 08, 2023 at 12:30 AM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of
Mary Catherine "Kitty" Smith.*



August 07, 2023 at 08:11 PM



“ *A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Rev. Dr. Mary Catherine Smith.*

August 07, 2023 at 08:11 PM

DG

“ *Extending my condolences to the Smith family.*

Diane Giles - August 05, 2023 at 12:32 AM

VH

“ *We extend our deepest condolences to the family of Soror Kitty Smith. We are praying for your strength at this difficult time.*

*Valarie Harris, President
Kappa Rho Omega Chapter
Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated®*



Valarie Harris - August 04, 2023 at 04:58 PM

TH

“ *The New Prime Timers Of Pleasant Hope purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Mary Catherine "Kitty" Smith.*



The New Prime Timers Of Pleasant Hope - August 03, 2023 at 02:29 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 01, 2023 at 02:25 PM