

*Celebration of Life for*



*Vivian Lee Waller Griffin*

*Sunrise*

*November 27, 1934*

*Sunset*

*September 1, 2019*

*Service*

*Saturday, September 14, 2019 - 10:00 a.m.*

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF CROWN HEIGHTS**

450 Eastern Parkway • Brooklyn, New York 11225

*Reverend Dr. Daryl G. Bloodsaw, Officiating*

*Reverend Dr. Clarence Norman, Sr., Founding Pastor*

*Please Silence All Cellular Phones*



*Order of Service*

Musical Prelude ..... Brother Evan Ferguson

Congregational Hymn of Praise #252..... Jesus Keep Me Near the Cross

Scripture Reading..... Reverend Dr. Christine Caton

Old Testament - Psalms 23

New Testament - St. John 14:1- 6

Invocation ..... Reverend Beulah Smith

Selection #281 ..... "Because He Lives"  
Choir

Expression of Love and Tribute ..... Leslie Griffin  
(2 minutes please)

Solo ..... Beverly Norman Thomas

Acknowledgement of Cards & Resolutions ..... Deaconess Michele Goudy-Manzo

Reflections of Life (On Sunrise)

Solo ..... "I Won't Complain"  
Deacon Joseph Lawson

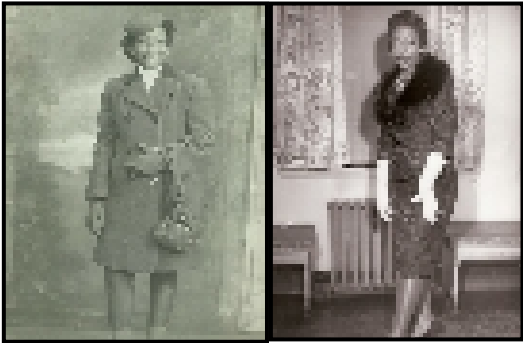
Words of Inspiration ..... Reverend Dr. Daryl G. Bloodsaw

Prayer of Comfort / Benediction ..... Reverend Dr. Daryl G. Bloodsaw

Postlude ..... "I Am Free"  
Brother Evan Ferguson

*The Memorial Celebration Will Continue with the  
Griffin Family in the Fellowship Hall for Brunch*

## *Reflections of Life*



Vivian “**Honey**” Waller-Griffin was born on November 27, 1934 in Birmingham, Alabama to the late Patsy Lee Grant. Vivian was given the nick name “**Honey**” by her Maternal Grandmother at birth. A name she has lovingly kept throughout the years.

In 1936, when Vivian was two years old, she and her mother Patsy migrated to New York City and settled in Williamsburg Brooklyn. Residing at 2 Segal Street, where they became members of Little Zion Church under the leadership of Pastor and Reverend B.G. Crawley. After a split in the church, Little Zion became First Baptist Church of Williamsburg, under the leadership of the founding pastor; Reverend Dr. Clarence Norman, Sr. First Baptist Church of Williamsburg became First Baptist Church of Crown Heights.

**Honey** attended New York City Public schools and graduated from Sarah J. Hale High School in Brooklyn where she studied cosmetology. Vivian chose a career as a hairdresser. She worked in one of the first African-American luxury beauty shops (Rose Meta House of Beauty) in Harlem, owned by Rose Morgan, wife of the late Heavy Weight Boxing Champion Joe Louis. Vivian also worked at the House of Beauty on Nostrand Avenue, Brooklyn and later owned her own beauty shop on Hegeman Street in Brownsville, Brooklyn.

Vivian started her second career in the 1960’s working at Abraham and Strauss (A&S) on Fulton Street in Brooklyn. Initially Vivian worked in A&S styling wigs where she drew crowds of shoppers amazed at her talents with scissors and a comb. Soon after, Vivian embarked on a career in commission sales. Vivian was one of the first black females, to sell men’s wear. Vivian then moved to the furniture department, eventually settling in the Electronics department (A&S Annex) where she was the only African American woman sales associate. Vivian became one of the top sales associates in her department. She earned honors from various manufacturers and received invitations to sales seminars throughout the country. After nearly 30 years of service to A&S, Vivian retired. After a few short years of retirement, Vivian went back to work as a part time sales associate with Macy’s at The Herald Square store in Manhattan. My mother stated

that “she enjoyed being around people and wanted to stay abreast of the latest fashions.” Vivian worked an additional 20 years until she ultimately retired in 2014.



Vivian was married to the late Walter Griffin Jr. and from that union, a son, Steven Griffin was born. Walter Griffin Jr. passed away September 10th, 1968 when Steven was just six years old. Vivian was now a widow, left to raise Steven with the help of her Mother Patsy Lee Grant.



Honey cherished her membership at First Baptist Church of Crown Heights along with her mother Patsy Lee Grant who was a Deaconess and the founding member of the Alabama Club. Her Aunt Eva Turner was the founding member of the Women’s Day Committee. In 1981, Honey worked closely with Reverend Norman whose inspiration and leadership helped to establish the Hospitality Committee. The committee’s primary mission was to greet church members and visitors with a kind, courteous, and



warm reception prior to the morning worship service. The Hospitality Committee wore red, so they could be easily recognized if they were needed by a church member or a visitor. This also happened to be Vivian and Reverend Norman’s favorite color. Vivian was a member of First Baptist Church for over

64 years.

In 1982, The Hospitality Committee decided there was a greater need to be addressed. The committee decided to focus on creating educational programs tailored to help the community’s youth succeed.

The Hospitality Committee initiated an annual candlelight graduation ceremony, and an annual educational conference. These programs were designed to assist church members, the community, and especially the youth, to gather information about career and educational opportunities. A scholarship fund was created to assist students in their quest to attain higher education. The Hospitality/ Scholarship Committee was born out of these initiatives. This was the driving passion in Vivian’s life and Church Ministry. Throughout the years, The Hospitality/ Scholarship Committee funded their scholarships with an annual dinner dance, raffles, and other fund-raising events.

Vivian, who has always loved to travel, suggested sponsoring vacations in the name of the Hospitality/Scholarship Committee. She saw this as a good way to see the world and another way to fund the scholarship. The members of the committee agreed that seeing the world was a great way to fund their scholarships. “As World Travelers we have enjoyed our years of traveling. The purpose of our travel has been to have fun and experience diverse countries, individuals, and the world. The ultimate mission for our journeys focused on providing scholarships to deserving young adults seeking higher education. Our sincere prayer is for the ability of these young adults to utilize their education and exposure to experience the wonders of travel across the globe as we have experienced these many years.” To date the Hospitality/Scholarship Committee has traveled to Alaska, Hawaii, Turkey, Greece, Egypt, France, The UK, Italy, South Africa, China, Tahiti, Mexico, Australia, Argentina, Macau, Bora Bora, Columbia, Zimbabwe, Amsterdam, New Zealand, Costa Rica, Brussels, and approximately 2



dozen cruises to the Caribbean. These are just a few of the places to which they have traveled over the last 35+ years. Vivian and The World Travelers as they have come to be acknowledged made their last trip together to Dubai. Because of their travel and hard work, The Hospitality Committee/Scholarship Fund has been able to award over \$529,770 in scholarships.

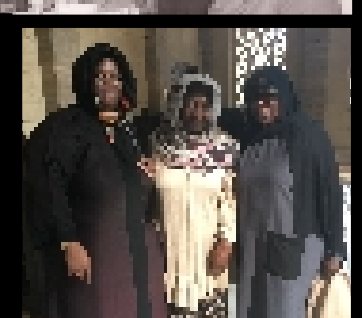
The greatest joy of Vivian’s life was her family, in particular her son Steven. Being an only child herself, Vivian found such joy in her only child. Through Steven, she was



blessed with three grandchildren, Steven Griffin, Jr., whom she called “Delicious” and fraternal twins, Jordan Walter Griffin and Jazzman Nicole Griffin, who Vivian called Jazz. As she liked to say, “I finally got a girl”. Vivian also leaves to cherish her memory, a beloved great-grandson, Sebastian Griffin.



Vivian also leaves to cherish her memory her cousins, Barbara Battle and Ada Battle, the last of the Lee family. The Turner Family, (Patricia Deborah, and Larry). The Griffin family including, her brothers-in-law; Darnel Griffin, and Leslie A. Griffin, her sisters-in-law; Mae Breckenridge-Haywood and Alveria Griffin, A host of nieces, nephews and friends.







## MISS ME BUT LET ME GO

When I come to the end of the road  
and the sun has set for me

I want no rites in a gloom-filled room

Why cry for a soul set free.

Miss me a little-but not too long  
and not with your head bowed low,

Remember the love that we once shared,

Miss me – but let me go

For this is a journey that we all must take  
and each must go alone

It's all a part of the Master's plan,

A step on the road to home.

When you are lonely and sick at heart

Go to the friends we know

And bury your sorrows in doing good deeds

MISS ME BUT LET ME GO

### *Acknowledgements*

*The Griffin family would like to express their deep appreciation and sincere thanks for all acts of kindness shown to them during their time of bereavement.*

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