

*Celebrating The Life  
of*

Sunrise

*November 16, 1925*

Sunset

*February 4, 2022*



*Mother*

*Ruby M. Spivey McDonald*

*Friday, February 18, 2022 - 1:00 p.m.*

**BRONX REFUGE CHURCH**  
1044 Washington Ave. • Bronx, NY 10456

# *Order of Service*

*Prelude*

*Processional*

*Invocation*

***Elder Charles Anthony Webb***

*Scripture Readings*

*Old Testament..... Khalil Gelin*

*New Testament..... Elder Benjamin Davis*

*Song (Eye on the Sparrow)*

***Sister Lucille Webb***

*Prayer of Comfort*

***Minister Lyneese Straws***

*Family/Friends Tributes (2 minutes please)*

*Song Selection (For Your Glory)*

***Aasha Cofield-Rowe***

*Condolences from Bronx Refuge Church*

***Deacon Moore***

*Acknowledgements (read 3 cards)*

*Eulogy*

*By Great Nephew* ***Bishop Anthony Cherry***

*Final Viewing*

*Benediction and Recessional*

***Elder Benjamin Davis***

***Interment***

***St. Luke Church of God***

***542 Parkertown Rd. • Mt. Gilead NC 27306***

## *Dear Family and Friends*

**Ruby Spivey McDonald** was born in Windsor, N.C. in Bertie County to Blanche Gilliam and Robert Spivey. Ruby was raised by her father's sister, Rosa Cherry who had no girls of her own. Ruby had 7 brothers and 4 sisters where they were raised in the country on a farm. This experience allowed Ruby to understand agriculture and husbandry very well. Walks in botanical garden were a joy to her. Any plant she saw she could tell you what it was just by the leaf. Although being raised in the country, Ruby always dreamed of living in the big city... New York City!

When Ruby became a young adult, she and her 2 sisters Tessie and Mamie ventured to New York City for a better living. It was in 1945, where she met the love of her life and soulmate Berion Lee McDonald. They met at a mutual friend's house who used to play his jukebox and all who came by could dance all night. Well, Ruby and Berion eyes met and they danced all night. By 1947, they were married and soon had 6 children (3 boys and 3 girls). She was now on to a new path of motherhood.

Ruby stayed in the church. She understood the reverence of God. She gave her life to Christ at Greater Refuge Temple shortly after marriage. Soon after, Berion gave his life to Christ too. Ruby took her responsibilities as a mother to heart. It was very important for her to raise her children in the eyes of the Lord.

Ruby was a homemaker and ensured her children were well taken care of. Later when her children were old enough, she acquired a job with the Department of Education at Jane Adams High School working as a food service worker. This worked out well for her because she had all the school days off with her children.

With the help of her husband, never, ever did her children go hungry, or find themselves without a roof over their heads nor clothes on their backs. And even after they were grown (some with families of their own), she'd let them know that they were always welcomed to come back if they found themselves in a bind so that they could get themselves together.

Ruby loved her sons (Samuel, Richard and Aaron) and daughters (Merion, Diane and Pamela) with a passion. She saw potential and greatness in each one of them. Family was so important to Ruby and Berion that they would take the kids in that old green car and head to Rye Beach, N.Y. for their annual family trip.

Ruby deeply loved and understood the importance of family, where, if possible, she would attend the annual Spivey's family reunion in Windsor N.C. every first weekend in July.

She was an outstanding grandmother, great grandmother and great-great grandmother loving all her grands equally.

She never refused any of her grandchildren. She would always say, "I don't want to see anyone go into the system." We grands called her "Nana."

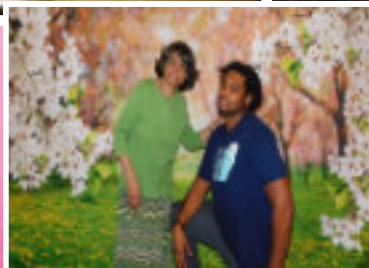
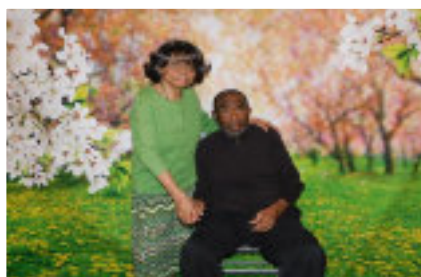
When she retired, she followed her husband back to his home in Mt. Gilead, N.C. There they served the Lord attending St Luke Church of God and continued in their ministries including prison ministry and helping others in need. When her husband of 75 years went on to the Lord in 2020, she quickly came back up to New York and stayed with her granddaughter, Tene. She longed for her husband but enjoyed life and family. Her love for God was so strong she even continued to praise and worship God in her last days. She lived 96 years.

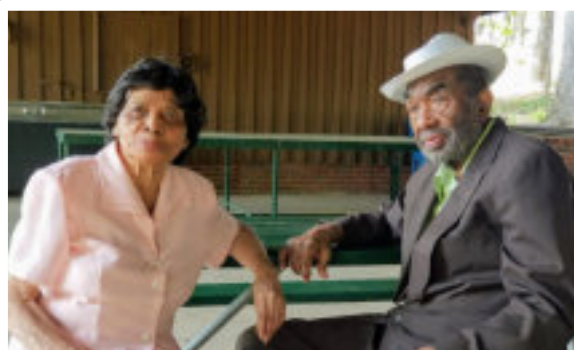
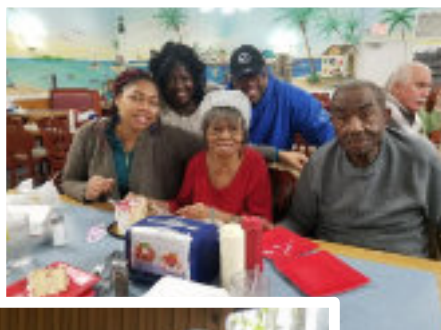
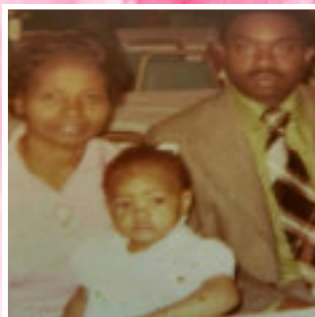
Ruby Spivey McDonald was preceded in death by her late husband Berion Lee McDonald, daughters Pamela, and Diane. Her son Samuel and grandson Kevin. Her siblings Clinton Spivey, Marthane Roscoe, John Spivey, Moses Spivey, Tessie Berry, Lafayette Spivey, Charlie Spivey, Robert Spivey (her twin brother), Melvin Spivey and Rosa Watson.

She leaves to mourn her last sister, Mamie Smith, her daughter Merion Lee Burns, her sons Richard Nathaniel and Aaron Ray McDonald. In addition, her granddaughter Tene McDonald-Gelin and great grandson John Marsh who tended to her care. Her son-in-law Lawrence Burns, her daughter-in-laws Janis and Artelia McDonald. She had 17 grandchildren: Tisha, Kimathi, Kofi, Lawrence II, Giovanni Sr, Brenden, Jullian, Tanasha, Tinaruth, Tajh, James, Tene, Richard jr., Quashawn, Alex, Tonya and Tomeka. Her 19 great-grands and a great-great granddaughter. A host of cousins, family, and friends.











We thank you all for your love and support.

Special mention is given to Tene for her tireless effort in taking care of her beloved grandmother, to her husband Khalil who was right by her side helping and to her son John who looked after his great grandmother during her last days. Thank you, Clinton for helping and allowing your aunt Ruby to have many sleepovers with her sister Mamie. Those memories are priceless! You are a true gem!



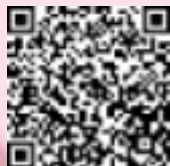
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