

CELEBRATING THE LIFE  
OF

*Dennis Anthony Carter*

*Sunrise*  
*January 7, 1963*

*Sunset*  
*December 24, 2023*

Friday, January 26, 2024  
Viewing: 7:30 – 9:00 AM  
Service: 9:00 AM

**Changing Lives  
Christian Center**

1848 Linden Blvd.  
Brooklyn, New York 11207

*OFFICIATING MINISTERS*

*Host Minister: Pastor Paul B. Mitchell*  
*Visiting Minister: Rev. Wayne Edwards*



# Obituary

He was the son parents dreamed of having... caring, conscientious, hard-working, steadfast, dependable, understanding and loyal; the partner who wasn't too proud to show humility; the father who strived to be the most loving and supportive dad to his two sons, Christopher and Brian; and the sibling you looked up to and proudly boasted to your friends about.

Dennis Anthony Carter was the super-cool uncle who was always there to inspire and motivate. He was the reliable relative you could call upon, and the friend everyone wanted to hang out with. Truly, he was a gift from God to his family, friends and those blessed to have been within his sphere of influence.

To those who may not know Dennis well, think of him as a guardian angel with a perpetual, broad, angelic, yet mischievous, smile that was like an electric bulb, flooding the entire room with light. From his unforgettable smile, Dennis radiated warmth. He touched everyone with a magnetism you could feel, a sincerity that penetrated your heart, and a spirit of love that enfolded you. Dennis personified what every human being should be – giving, forgiving, caring, honest, humble ... the list goes on. He left each of us a part of him that neither time nor death can ever take away.

## **His Formative Years**

Veronica (Mommy) Carter, his mother, will never forget January 7, 1963. It was a special day, a blessed day in the small community of River Head, St. Ann, Jamaica. It is a day forever etched in her heart with the birth of her first child, Dennis Anthony Carter. She celebrated with her husband (now deceased) Neville (Daddy) Carter. Dennis grew up to become the son they had prayed for: kind, loving, obedient, reliable, and God-fearing. He was the apple of their eyes.

Dennis was a man with many names, and was affectionately called "Pops," "Den," "Bro," "Cuz," "Den Den," "Uncle," "Carter," "Denno," "President" and "Captain." He was the eldest of five children - one girl and four boys – sister, Donnette; and brothers, Denrick, Audley and Antonio.

Dennis' inquisitiveness, creativity and resourcefulness were recognized during his formative years. He learned to ride a bicycle through experimentation, and perfected the art of making cars using small boxes. Limes, creatively attached to the boxes, served as wheels. Dennis played the popular game cricket, with bats made from coconut tree limbs, using oranges as balls, and sticks as wickets. He then recruited his siblings, cousins, and other children in the community to play cricket with him.

Psalms 22 verse six (NKJV) instructs parents to "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it." It was one of Mommy and Daddy Carter's core values, guiding their parenting of Dennis and his siblings. Dennis knew the Lord early, while attending the Emanuel Apostolic Church in Moneague, St. Ann. On Sunday mornings, evenings, and even some weekday nights, Dennis walked two miles (each way), with his parents and siblings, to attend church. As he grew in his relationship with God, he was baptized and began active engagement in the church as a choir member and youth secretary.

Dennis was a firm believer in the power of prayers. In his life, everything started with a prayer, whether it was a meal, a special occasion or just a family gathering. He personified Proverbs 15 verse 20, which states, "A wise son makes his father (and mother) glad."

Together with his siblings, Dennis enjoyed a carefree and happy childhood, with firm, but protective, nurturing, devoted and loving parents.

## **Education**

Dennis' early education was jump-started by his mother, Mommy Carter. She homeschooled Dennis, his cousins and other children in the community, building their foundational reading and math skills. She remained his primary teacher throughout his entire life, sharing key life principles about education, family, character and, most importantly, spirituality.



Dennis was a high achiever and flourished as a student. He was gifted, intelligent and full of potential. Determined to give Dennis every opportunity possible, his parent's entrusted his preparation for the high school entrance test, known as the Common Entrance Examination, to his beloved aunt Novelette Haye, an educator. He lived with his Aunt Nov and her husband, Uncle Lee, in the village of Bamboo, St. Ann. His playmates were his cousins, Michelle and Deon.

Dennis' long hours of studying paid dividends. He was successful in the high school entrance test, and attended Ferncourt High School. Dennis was a stand-out student, immersing himself in school life, excelling in his studies, and forging life-long friendships.

After graduating high school, Dennis attended Mico Teachers College, in Kingston, Jamaica. He successfully completed his studies at Mico, and had an outstanding tenure as Host Captain of Buxton House, an on-campus student residence. At Mico, Dennis never relinquished his Christian upbringing, and was a member of the Pentecostal Paternity.

### **The young man**

Dennis was a hard worker and an achiever. He taught at various schools in Jamaica, sold insurance, and even tried his hand at pest control.

The brightness of Dennis' future, and his dreams and goals, propelled him beyond the borders of Jamaica to Canada and then the United States. At age 11, he made his first trip abroad to visit his Aunt Gene in Canada. She, too, wanted to ensure his success. As an adult, he resided with her in Canada. However, the opportunities and options that the United States promised to a young man full of dreams, led him to Brooklyn, New York, where he was welcomed by his Aunt Nov and her family (who had moved to the U.S.).

Dennis was ambitious and determined to take advantage of every job opportunity. With his eyes on a career compatible with his desire to serve, Dennis pursued and completed a nursing degree, becoming a Registered Nurse.

He provided quality care to hundreds of patients as an Emergency Room Nurse, and worked at several hospitals, including Caledonia Hospital, Brooklyn Hospital Center, Brookdale Hospital Center, Kingsbrook Jewish Hospital, and New York City Health and Hospitals (Queens Hospital Center). Dennis served as Nursing Supervisor at Kingsbrook and Brookdale Hospitals.

Dennis played a very active role in the alumni associations of Ferncourt High School and Mico College. He helped establish The Mico Group, and tirelessly helped in its fundraising efforts. Dennis relished his roles in both associations, and devoted much time and efforts to help build and strengthen their presence in the U.S.

Dennis' philanthropic efforts were not confined to Jamaica and the U.S. He objected to injustice wherever it exists, supported freedom fighters in Kenya, and kept abreast of global human rights and other international developments.

Two years after migrating to the U.S., Dennis met and married Valerie Tavares. They were blessed with two sons, Christopher and Brian.

Dennis was a devoted dad, guiding his sons, in every way possible, into adulthood. He was extremely proud of his sons, and told them every chance he got. For example, Dennis supported his son Christopher in his choice of a basketball career, and visited him in Germany, where he plays professionally. Likewise, whenever Brian had a football game, he would attend, and rally the family to join him to cheer Brian on.

Dennis and Valerie embarked on different paths, while still respecting and supporting each other.

Along his life's journey, Dennis met Donna Lashley, who became his devoted friend and significant other up to the time of his passing. They shared a deep bond, and she was there for him at his most vulnerable, and when he needed her most. Donna cherishes the time God gave them together, his kindness, patience, calmness, problem-solving and listening skills, and the advice he often provided. To her, he was an angel, full of goodness.

### **Love of Family**

Family meant everything to Dennis. He seized every opportunity to bring the family together. He would often call or send text messages saying, "What are you doing?" "Come on over." Dennis appreciated every loving act he benefited from, and would often exclaim, "Perfect" for simple cornmeal porridge prepared for him. He loved good food, and was an amateur chef, experimenting with making different dishes. He felt like a king, and doubled up on his big smile, whenever he was complimented on one of his culinary creations.



It was Dennis' attachment to, and love of, family that motivated him to move to Georgia. After watching family members move there, one-by-one, his deep yearning for closeness to family, physically and emotionally, left him no choice but to join his loved ones there.

As the eldest son, Dennis was the glue that held the family together. He could be relied on for the best, knowledge-based and well-thought-out advice. He was the voice of reason. Dennis was warm, calm, gentle and diplomatic. He did not believe in rushing. In line with this approach, he would often say, "What's the rush?"

Dennis' love was encouraging, uplifting, and echoed in the words often heard by his sons, nieces, nephews, other family members, and friends, "I'm so proud of YOU."

He had lots of reasons to be proud, and would shower praises on his talented sons, Christopher and Brian, especially after graduating college, or excelling in their favorite games of basketball and football, respectively. His nephews, Jovanni, Dylan and Tyler, were also favorite targets of his praises, particularly after they completed reading a book assigned, excelled in a test, or made the Dean's List at school. His nephew, Jordan, was a particular source of pride, after taking his first primary flight training class. Dennis also heaped expressions of pride on his nieces, Jessica, Brianna, and Kelcie, and recognized their accomplishments.

### **Legacy**

Dennis was a man of impeccable character, embodying the virtues of integrity, humility and compassion in every aspect of life. He had a rare gift of seeing the good in people, understanding their struggles, and providing unconditional support.

Dennis had a remarkable ability to connect with people, cultivating deep and meaningful relationships that stood the test of time. His friendships were built on trust, respect and mutual admiration. The life he lived, the loyalty he inspired, values he practiced, and devotion and faithfulness to his family, are testaments to his character that have made him a hero in his family and to others. Dennis used every mistake, or stumbling blocks, as opportunities to learn. He forgave and sought forgiveness. His life epitomizes, and provides a blueprint of how to grow, mature, adjust to changing circumstances, and lead an uncomplicated, loving, honorable, and God-fearing life.

The memory of Dennis will live on in the heart of his family, friends and all those who loved and admired him. He has left a rich legacy to be emulated and practiced. Those present can remember the lessons he imparted, and strive to live with the grace and kindness he demonstrated every day. We can all honor his memory and carry on his legacy by becoming beacons of love and light, and spreading kindness, joy and compassion wherever we go.

### **God Called His Angel Home**

In mid-December 2023, Dennis traveled to Brooklyn, New York for a medical appointment. He became ill and was hospitalized.

On December 24, 2023, at 8:05 PM, the family heard the shocking and devastating news that Dennis had passed. Words cannot express the sorrow that engulfed his loved ones, but faith in God and the support of family, friends and strangers have been invaluable. Dennis' loved ones are comforted knowing that his spirit lives on in the love that binds us, the cherished memories, and in the lives touched, and transformed by his presence. Let us embody the values he held dear.

Dennis Anthony Carter is survived by his mother, sons, daughter-in-law, sister, sisters-in-law, brothers, brother-in-law, nieces, nephews, aunt, uncle, significant other, cousins and other family members and friends.

In concluding, I quote a verse from Dennis' favorite poem "A Psalm of Life," written by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow.

..." Lives of great men all remind us  
We can make our lives sublime,  
And departing, leave behind us  
Footprints on the sands of time

May his soul rest in perfect and eternal peace, surrounded by the love and light that he so generously bestowed on all blessed to have known and loved him.



## **"The Senior Family" Tribute to The Life of Dennis Anthony Carter**

God gives true friends communion. "Be kindly affectionate one to another with brotherly love, in honor, preferring one another" (Romans 9:10).

We have known the Carter family for over 60 years, and they have always had a special bond with us the Seniors.

Our paths intersected at the Emmanuel Apostolic Church in Moneague, St. Ann when our dad Bishop F. A. Senior, then Pastor, dedicated Dennis as a baby. When Dennis grew to the age of accountability as a thirteen year-old teen, he surrendered his life to God in water baptism in Jesus' name.

None of us can recall a time when Dennis ever got in trouble at church or school. He was the disciplined, quiet, and brilliant one. He was an avid Bible quizzer who proudly represented our team at youth camps. We were indeed a force to be reckoned with.

During our primary school years, we enjoyed playing rounders together during recess, and we all ate our lunches at the Carters' house, which was next door to our school. We were the Carters and the Seniors, all knitted as a family, never once ever offending each other.

Our unity stood firmly throughout life's journey from Moneague and Riverhead, to Independence City, to New York, and to Canada. Dennis remained a stable force, a humble big brother and friend.

Pre-GPS, on our trips to New York from Ontario, Dennis would tell us to stop at a particular gas station where he would meet and escort us to his home. Awaiting us would be a mouthwatering spread of Jamaican dishes. If our parents were with us, they received royal treatment from the Carter family. We always felt special in Dennis' home.

During our visits to New York, Dennis would take us shopping, waited patiently for us without complaining, and never without a smile when we returned to the car park.

Dennis, his parents and siblings made many trips to visit us in Canada. He represented the Carter family well in their tributes at both our parents' home-going services. His thoughtful words, particularly addressing us by name according to our birth order, and provided us much comfort during those challenging times.

Who could have told us that September 30, 2023, would have been the last time we see Dennis? Who would have known that the lovely tribute he gave at his aunt's funeral would have been his final public rendition? Dennis was so happy to see us and we him. He gave us the biggest hugs, and we enjoyed our two families blending once again, that time at a large table at a Kelsey's restaurant in Ontario. We sat for hours until nightfall just reminiscing and enjoying sweet fellowship. Sometimes without words, we understood each other. Indeed, God gives true friends communion.

Dennis, you will be missed dearly. We'll always remember your unreserved laughter -just like your dad's-, your calm demeanor, and your brotherly hugs.

To Mommy, Ricky, Donnette, Audley, and Tony, we may never comprehend why God gave us and has chosen to take such a dear soul. However, God is sovereign, so we continue to trust Him.

Finally, let's fiercely cherish and emulate the legacy of compassion, love, and selflessness that Dennis exemplified. We all miss him dearly, but our precious memories will forever live in our hearts.

Rest in peace our brother and friend. We will always love you.



## **In Loving Memory: A Tribute to a Remarkable Soul - From The Extended Carter Family**

With profound sadness, we bid farewell to a cousin whose life was a tapestry of kindness, compassion, and unwavering dedication to uplifting those around him.

As we reflect on the time he spent with us, it becomes evident that this exceptional individual was not just an ordinary person but was a true beacon of light. Dennis' infectious smile and genuine warmth could brighten the darkest of days, leaving a trail of joy in its wake.

But beyond his radiant spirit, it was his selfless nature that truly set him apart. Dennis' contribution to us his extended family outnumbered his years here on earth. He taught us the power of empathy, reminding us that even the smallest act of kindness can create ripples of change.

Dennis, Violet, and I were like three peas in a pod. We grew up together and were members of the first set of students who attended his mom's Early Childhood School, held at her home.

During break and lunchtime, we played and ate together. I don't know how we three didn't destroy everything in the house. Whenever we had an accident, Uncle and Miss V never reprimanded Vie and I, Dennis always got the blame because it was his family home. He never complained nor retaliated. He just took the blame with a smile. From such an early age, his selflessness was evident.

Dennis was also our protector. For example, when I attended Ferncourt High School, he introduced me to his friends and told them to treat me well. Almost every day, I had to report to him. His siblings, other relatives and friends can attest to his protective spirit.

As the years rolled on, Dennis and Vie migrated to the United States of America, but our bond remained. Whenever my family and I visited them, a family get-together was always held at his home in Brooklyn. He ensured that we had spending money. It always amazed us how he put the money into our hands and no other persons in the vicinity had ever seen when the gift was given.

He was the true replica of Uncle Boysie, his dad, a real family man. Our last sojourn was at my late brother's funeral in May 2023 where he surprised me with his presence.

Though he no longer walks among us, his spirit lives on in the countless lives he touched, especially as a contributor/benefactor to the children of his many cousins.

As we pay tribute to him, let us not mourn his absence but celebrate the extraordinary gift God loaned to us.

Dennis, our dearly departed, we thank God for allowing you to grace our lives with your boundless love and generosity. May your soul find Eternal Peace, knowing that your light will forever guide and inspire us. Sleep peacefully, cousin, you will forever be a cherished part of our lives.

With heart-felt condolences from Maureen Carter Cunningham (Precious) and the entire extended Carter Family.



## **Our Brother Dennis from Class of Ferncourt High School Class of 75-80 – A Rhinestone Cowboy!**

2 Timothy 4:7-8, "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith, now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing."

We, the officers, and members of the FHS Class of 75-80 are deeply saddened by the transition of our beloved brother, high school classmate and one of our best friend Dennis Anthony Carter. Most of us met Dennis at Ferncourt High School during September of 1975. Others grew up with him and made it all the way to the same high school. He was low keyed, but not afraid of challenges, very friendly, kind, loving, disciplined and a great student. As we all got to know Dennis throughout our high school years, we realized he was very observant and silently mischievous. Dennis would often join forces with other classmates with pranks in class that would make the whole class laugh and there was never a dull day at Ferncourt High with him around. Dennis was also a very dedicated and faithful member of the school's Cadets core. He was very good at burnishing other's cadet boots for National Inspection. He had great marching abilities and a very sharp salute. His many commendations from Major Zachius McKnight were proof of this. During those years, Dennis was not a very tall young man, but something happened in his latter years as we all saw the change in height years later. It would seem his body finally caught up with the mental height of his drive to achieve.

In 2016 when we decided to form an organization to help our beloved Alma Mata Ferncourt High School in Claremont, St Ann, Dennis was so enthusiastic to enter this new journey again with our classmates that he reached out and located as many of our classmates as possible, to join our active WhatsApp group. Dennis often said "batchmates, after 48 years of friendship I feel like we never left high school every time we get together". Dennis served with great distinction as a dedicated and faithful member of our organization over the past 7 years. He loved every moment of being a part of the organization. He ensured we strived for excellence in everything we did for our school, and he was a true perfectionist for God. Dennis was a visionary who saw the basic needs of the students and the school, above all other needs. He had a vision; seeing the student body on campus having benches to sit around the campus. He shared his vision with the group and went about securing and delivering 6 iron cast benches to the school. On his next trip to Jamaica, he made sure to visit the school as he usually does and was so pleased to see them all assembled around the gazebo. Dennis ensured that during his frequent trips to Jamaica, his plans included a day to the school to do an assessment. He would then, upon his return, share these assessment reports with the group at our next monthly group meeting. Dennis was our fundraising chairman and the driver behind all our fundraising efforts. He ensured they were done in a dignified and transparent format. He would design a plan and share with the group how we could accomplish each of our missions. Because the organization does not have a direct bank account, Dennis would allow the organization to utilize his personal account and reported each and every cent received to the group daily. His enthusiastic methods and drive helped us to raise over \$2 million Jamaican dollars to assist in tiling the auditorium floor at the school. He was so happy when the pictures came and he could say, "batchmates, we did it!". On one of Dennis's visits to the school, he came back and reported the need to upgrade the school's kitchen with pots, pans, and utensils. Again,



Dennis devised a plan and shared it with the group. We were able to raise enough funds to accomplish this task. He personally drove all over NYC to obtain the items and had them packed for shipping. We were able to ship them to the school. Dennis was so happy to share the videos he received when the items arrived at the school. Dennis would often donate funds in classmates' names if they were not able to participate in a particular fundraiser. His favorite sentence was "for the love of Ferncourt!" At our last meeting on 12/17/23, Dennis was planning to share another one of his ideas at our January 2024 meeting of how we could raise the funds for our 2024 project. But God had other plans when He called our brother home. Dennis enjoyed every FHS 75-80 meeting and greeting our classmates when they came into NY because it was a time of celebration. In 2017 Dennis had our famous 75-80 banner made because he felt wherever we went, we were a brand. We recall at our last gathering in July of 2023 in Atlanta, where Dennis opened his home to two of us, we watched Dennis frantically searching his house for hours, looking for the banner. He was not heading out without it, and when he found it, only then was it time for us all to leave for the event. He danced all night and ensured we all took pictures with that infamous banner. Dennis made frequent trips in his spare time Florida, PA, NJ, DC, Boston, Canada, Jamaica etc and if our classmates reside there, it was a celebration, because Dennis would be making that link. He loved being in the presence of his classmates. I will speak of one specific chapter in our 75-80 journey. He was on his way to see his son in Vermont, driving from NY and arranged to see another member of the 75-80 family in MA at a meeting on the journey so to speak. They had planned to have him collect some T Shirts to send to Ferncourt for the Athletics Department. Our poor brother thought that all he was supposed to do was hand off the shirts to Dennis, but Dennis had other plans. He hands him a huge bag with a hand of green bananas, yellow yam, sweet potato, plantain, saltfish, and coco. His message to our brother was that he thought that he needed some real Jamaican food to fatten him up!! Hence the big bag of ground provision and some salt ting to back it up. That's the type of guy Dennis was - thoughtful and full of pleasant surprises.

We were his second family. We are grateful to God that we spent these wonderful years with Dennis, meeting, greeting, reflecting on our lives, fortifying our mission and purpose as we take the stand to improve the lives of those who come behind us. In the process we grew closer, learning more about each other's and our families. Consequently, we laughed, talked, greeted, aided, supported, and mourned together.

We, the FHS batch of 75-80 will always remember Dennis who was a loyal servant and dedicated family member who touched the lives of so many with his jovial personality, warm spirit and an awesome gentleman. A real friend, brother, supporter, and councilor. We thank God for leading Dennis Anthony Carter to the road that brought him into our lives. We, the officers, and members of FHS Class 75-80 wish to express to Dennis's entire family our deepest heartfelt sympathy on the homegoing of one so loved by you and us. We thank you for sharing Dennis with us and we pray God will continue to administer to you with comfort and strength with a peace that surpass all understanding.

Submitted in love this 26th day of January 2024

FHS Class of 75-80

Sandra "Moy" Irons, President



# *Great is Thy Faithfulness*

Written by Thomas O. Chisholm

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father  
There is no shadow of turning with Thee  
Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not  
As Thou hast been, Thou forever wilt be.

Refrain:

Great is Thy faithfulness

Great is Thy faithfulness

Morning by morning new mercies I see  
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided  
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest  
Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above  
Join with all nature in manifold witness  
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. [Refrain]

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth  
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide  
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow  
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! [Refrain]



# Order of Service

Prelude

Processional

Opening Prayer.....Pastor Patson Agard

Congregational Hymn.....Great Is Thy Faithfulness

First Scripture.....Psalm 23  
Dylan Carter/Jessica Carter (Nephew & Niece)

Second Scripture.....John 14:1-7  
Jovanni Carter (Nephew)

Changing Lives Christian Center Praise Team

Tributes

Dr. John Lindo (Friend)

Christopher and Brian Carter (Sons)

Siblings

Donna Lashley (Significant Other)

Gregory Hays (Cousin)

Maureen Carter-Cunningham (Cousin)

Changing Lives Christian Center Praise Team

Video Tributes

Tributes

Sonia Senior-Martin (Friend)

Sandra Moey.....Ferncourt High School Alumni

Richard Wilson, Horace Lynch.....Mico Teachers College Alumni

Veronica Brown.....Caledonian Hospital

Praise Dance.....Shannon Ismael (Friend)

Eulogy.....Violet Hawthorne (Cousin)

Song.....Patsy Carter (Sister-in-law)

Homily.....Rev. Paul B. Mitchell, Senior Pastor

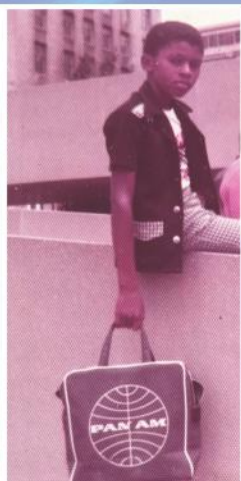
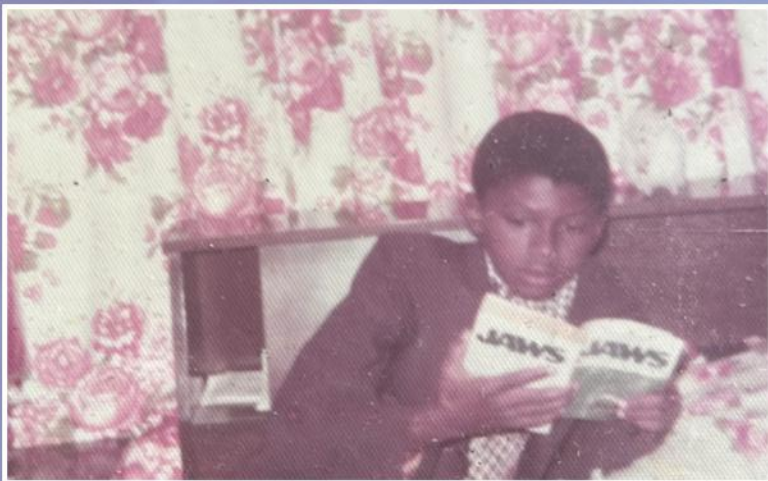
Prayer of Comfort.....Rev. Pauline Gayle

Benediction

Final Viewing

Recessional







## Pall Bearers

Christopher Carter  
Denrick Carter  
Antonio Carter

Brian Carter  
Audley Carter  
Victon Williams

## *Repast*

*Bonacci Lounge*

*1570 Ralph Ave, Brooklyn, NY 11236*

## *Acknowledgements*

The family would like to express sincere thanks and appreciation to all for their well wishes, words of comfort, prayers and other acts of kindness during this time of sorrow.

*Funeral Arrangements Entrusted To*  
**Perfect Peace Funeral Homes Inc.**

2200 Clarendon Road  
Brooklyn, NY 11226  
Floyd W. Gilmore, President

