

A portrait of an elderly African American woman with short, dark, wavy hair. She is smiling and wearing a dark blue jacket over a white top, a multi-strand pearl necklace, and large pearl earrings. The background is a solid blue color.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF

Friday, March 21, 2025
11:00 AM

**Grace Bible Church
of Central Florida**

801 Dorscher Road, Orlando, FL 32818

Officiating

**The Rev. Peter George Magill
The Rev. John Pollard
Canon Lloyd Anthony**

Committal

Woodlawn Memorial Park
400 Woodlawn Cemetery Rd.
Orlando [Gotha], FL 34734

A cluster of blue hibiscus flowers with green leaves is positioned in the bottom left corner of the page.

Valrie Agatha Johnson

SUNRISE – November 27, 1936

SUNSET – March 3, 2025

VALRIE AGATHA JOHNSON

Valrie McLean was born November 27, 1936, to the late Samuel and Vivian McLean nee Parchment, in Flagaman district, Pedro Plains, St. Elizabeth, Jamaica. She was the sixth of nine children.

From birth, Valrie was special to her family. She was not born in any significant order but was named after her mother Vivian Agatha McLean. She was indeed special, not only to her family but to all who knew her. She was lovingly called Aunt Val, Miss Val, Miss Valrie by many who were not related to her.

Valrie attended Pedro Plains All Age School and excelled in her achievements. She was successful in the Jamaican local exams which earned her a place at the prestigious Shortwood Teacher’s Training College in Kingston, Jamaica.

After leaving college, unlike many, Valrie chose to return home to St. Elizabeth to assist her parents in raising her younger siblings and nieces and nephews whose parents had migrated to England. She taught for many years at Pedro Plains and Sandy Bank All Age schools and was also very successful for many years as a school administrator. She was highly respected and loved by members of the community, coworkers, and of course her students for the work she did. She had the amazing ability to bring out the best in everyone. Her students will attest to that.

Valrie had an unwavering Christian faith and was baptized, confirmed, and later married at St. Peter’s Anglican Church in Pedro Plains. As a child and teenager, she attended church every Sunday, at times walking over five miles to and from church. She served as a choir mistress, Sunday School Superintendent, youth leader, and mentor. She was one of the cornerstones of the church.

Valrie met and married the love of her life, Reverend Arthur Johnson. He was then the Church Army Captain in charge of St. Peter’s Church. They were married on April 15, 1963, celebrating almost 62 years of wedded bliss. The union produced four children and nine grandchildren.

Once married, Valrie and Arthur took nieces Sonia “Peggy”, Verna, and later Ruby and Georgia, and one nephew Wade to live with them. They also continued to take in many others into their home especially children, some total strangers preparing them not only for entrance into high school but also for their life choices. She never treated her non-biological children differently than those she birthed.

As a community leader in Darliston, Westmoreland she was one of those individuals who created opportunities to share her time and her many talents with those in need. She used her leadership skills in a myriad of social groups including the Jamaica Teachers Association, Jamaican Women Federation, and the Mothers Union. In 1976, she was a representative of the Mothers Union for the centennial celebration in England.

In the role as a youth advocate and role model, many of the youths of the Young Women’s Christian Association (YWCA), Girl Guides, and 4H Club, have been encouraged and strengthened by her counsel and influence over the years. She had the pleasure of representing these groups at ceremonial occasions in Mexico and Greece. For her exemplary life of dedicated involvement, she was the recipient of the Jamaica Prime Minister’s Medal of Appreciation.

After serving in schools in White House, Bluefields, and Darliston, she became the principal of the Barneyside All Age School in Westmoreland for many years. She is credited with putting Barneyside on the map. In 1983, Valrie and her



family migrated to the great city of Brooklyn, NYC. There she had a brief stint as an educator but later worked in the private sector with Castle Harlan Company for 26 years. She was not treated as an ordinary employee, but as family.

Living in Rosedale, Queens, NY, her interest and dedication to St. Joseph’s Episcopal Church played an active role in her life. She performed the duties of Lay Eucharist Minister, choir member, and also was involved in other ministry networks. She later upgraded her education with a Bachelors of Arts in Psychology Counseling.

Valrie served as a founding member of The Shortwood Teacher’s College Alumnae Association, New York Chapter. She served this organization as secretary for many years. Her excellent interpersonal skills coupled with a keen sense of humor made her an indispensable member of the executive body. She was also an active member in the Union of Jamaican Alumni Association (UJAA).

Valrie and her family left New York for sunny Orlando, Florida in 2007 where she joined the Holy Family Episcopal Church of Orlando, taking on active roles in several ministries.

Her sense of humor made her a stand-up comedian at home and in the communities in which she served, and she was often invited to entertain many diverse groups. She was an active member of the Pine Hills Seniors club. She enjoyed the computer classes, the exercise activities, and the bus trips. She also loved celebrating holidays and celebrating other members’ birthdays.

Valrie was the first female trained teacher in her family, and many followed in her footsteps. She was a role model and influenced many to take a page of her book in their life choices of education.

Valrie was transformed from her earthly life to a life of eternal peace on March 3, 2025. She has left an indelible mark on all who met her. She will be remembered for her compassion, kindness, and love to all humanity.

Valrie was preceded in death by her **parents**, and one **brother** – Sepron J. McClean.

Valrie leaves to mourn her loss, **husband** – Arthur; **daughters** – Rubylyn, Lois and husband Wayne Sr., and Dayna; **sons** – Paul, Allan and wife Vivienne; **grandchildren** – Avril, Tassanee, Wayne Jr., Alana, Nathaniel, Emanuel, Caleb, Felton, Barack, and Chiloh; **great grandchildren** – Gazan and Oneika; and a host of other relatives, and many friends.



FROM Psalm 23 –

“He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: He leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul...”

Yet we have this assurance: Those who belong to God will live; their bodies will rise again! Those who sleep in the earth will rise up and sing for joy!

– Isaiah 26:19 NLT

Celebrating the Life of Valrie Agatha Johnson

“I am the Resurrection and the Life.”

“Please silence your cell phones.”

– from John 11:25

THE BURIAL OF THE DEAD

RECEPTION OF THE BODY

Priest: With faith in Jesus Christ, we receive the body of our sister Valrie for burial. Let us pray with confidence to God, the Giver of life, that He will raise her to perfection in the company of saints.

Silence

Priest: Deliver Your servant, Valrie, O Sovereign Lord Christ, from all evil, and set her free from every bond; that she may rest with all Your saints in the eternal habitations; where with the Father and the Holy Spirit You live and reign, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Priest: Let us also pray for all who mourn, that they may cast their care on God, and know the consolation of His love.

Silence

Priest: Almighty God, look with pity upon the sorrows of Your servants for whom we pray. Remember them, Lord, in mercy; nourish them with patience; comfort them with a sense of Your goodness; lift up Your countenance upon them; and give them peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE ENTRANCE / PROCESSIONAL

The Opening Anthems *(Please stand.)*

Priest: I am Resurrection and I am Life, says the Lord. Whoever has faith in Me shall have life, even though he die. And everyone who has life, and has committed himself to Me in faith, shall not die for ever.

As for me, I know that my Redeemer lives, and that at the last He will stand upon the earth.
After my awaking, He will raise me up, and in my body I shall see God.

I myself shall see, and my eyes behold Him, Who is my friend and not a stranger.
For none of us has life in himself, and none becomes his own master when he dies.

For if we have life, we are alive in the Lord. So, then, whether we live or die, we are the Lord’s possession.
Happy from now on are those who die in the Lord! So it is, says the Spirit, for they rest from their labors.

Priest: The Lord be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

Priest: Let us pray.

O God of grace and glory, we remember before You this day our sister Valrie. We thank You for giving her to us, her family and friends, to know and love as a companion on our earthly pilgrimage. In Your boundless compassion, console us who mourn. Give us faith to see in death the gate of eternal life, so that in quiet confidence we may continue our course on earth, until, by Your call, we are reunited with those who have gone before; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

OPENING HYMN – “Praise My Soul, the King of Heaven”

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

(Please be seated.)

First Reading – *Job 19-21-27*READ BY Claudia Lewis

Psalms 27 READ BY Emanuel Johnson

Second Reading – *Revelation 21:2-7*.....READ BY Georgia Pike Barham

(Please stand.)

Holy Gospel – *John 14:1-6* READ BY The Rev. Arthur Johnson

Priest: The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to John the Apostle.

PEOPLE: Glory to You, Lord Christ.

Priest: The Gospel of the Lord.

PEOPLE: Praise to You, Lord Christ.

(Please be seated.)

Solo Sonny Dudley

HomilyThe Rev. Peter George Magill – Assisting Priest, St. John’s Episcopal Church, Kissimmee, Florida

The Reading of the Legacy Vivene King [Niece]

(Please stand.)

THE PROCLAMATION OF FAITH

Minister: In assurance of eternal life given at Baptism, let us proclaim our faith and say:

ALL:

I BELIEVE IN GOD, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

I BELIEVE IN JESUS CHRIST, His only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day He rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the Right Hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I BELIEVE IN THE HOLY SPIRIT, The holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Minister: For our sister Valrie, let us pray to our Lord Jesus Christ Who said, *“I am Resurrection, and I am Life.”* Lord, You consoled Martha and Mary in their distress; draw near to us who mourn for Valrie, and dry the tears of those who weep.

ALL: Hear us, Lord.

Minister: You wept at the grave of Lazarus, Your friend; comfort us in our sorrow.

ALL: Hear us, Lord.

Minister: You raised the dead to life; give our sister Valrie eternal life.

ALL: Hear us, Lord.

Minister: You promised paradise to the thief who repented; bring our sister Valrie to the joys of heaven.

ALL: Hear us, Lord.

Minister: Our sister Valrie was washed in Baptism and anointed with the Holy Spirit; give her fellowship with all Your saints.

ALL: Hear us, Lord.

Minister: Comfort us in our sorrows at the death of our sister Valrie; let our faith be our consolation, and eternal life our hope.

Silence

Priest: Lord Jesus Christ, we commend to You our sister Valrie, who was reborn by water and the Spirit in Holy Baptism. Grant that her death may recall to us Your victory over death, and be an occasion for us to renew our trust in Your Father’s love. Give us, we pray, the faith to follow where You have led the way; and where You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, to the ages of ages. Amen.

Musical Selection The Choir of the Church of the Holy Family

Tribute from The Rt. Rev. Dr. Harold B. Daniel READ BY Canon Lloyd Anthony

Praise DancePERFORMED BY Sheila Bell

Reflections *(limit your remarks to 2 minutes each, please)*

Paul Johnson Esq. [Son] / Ludie Mills and Verna Martin [Nieces]

Elaine Murdock [Friend] / Mary Jacob [Sister] / Rev. Shayla L. Johnson [Grand Niece]

Alana Johnson and Tassanee Golding [Grandchildren] / William Castle Esq. [Representing the Castle Family]

Wayne C. Golding Sr, Esq, C.D. [Son-in-law]

THE COMMENDATION *(Please stand.)*

Priest: Give rest, O Christ, to Your servant Valrie, with Your saints...

ALL: ...where sorrow and pain are no more, neither sighing, but life everlasting.

Priest: You only are immortal, the Creator and Maker of mankind; and we are mortal, formed of the earth, and to earth shall we return. For so You did ordain when You created me, saying, “You are dust, and to dust you shall return.” All of us go down to the dust; yet even at the grave we make our song: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

ALL: Give rest, O Christ to Your servant Valrie with Your saints, where sorrow and pain are no more, neither sighing, but life everlasting.

Priest: Into Your Hands, O merciful Savior, we commend Your servant Valrie. Acknowledge, we humbly beseech You, a sheep of Your own fold, a lamb of Your own flock, a sinner of Your own redeeming. Receive her into the arms of Your mercy, into the blessed rest of everlasting peace, and into the glorious company of the saints in light. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN – “It is Well with my Soul”

(Please stand. – Following the Blessing, please respond to each verse.)

CELEBRANT – THE BLESSING

V. Alleluia, Christ is risen! / **R.** Christ is risen indeed, Alleluia!

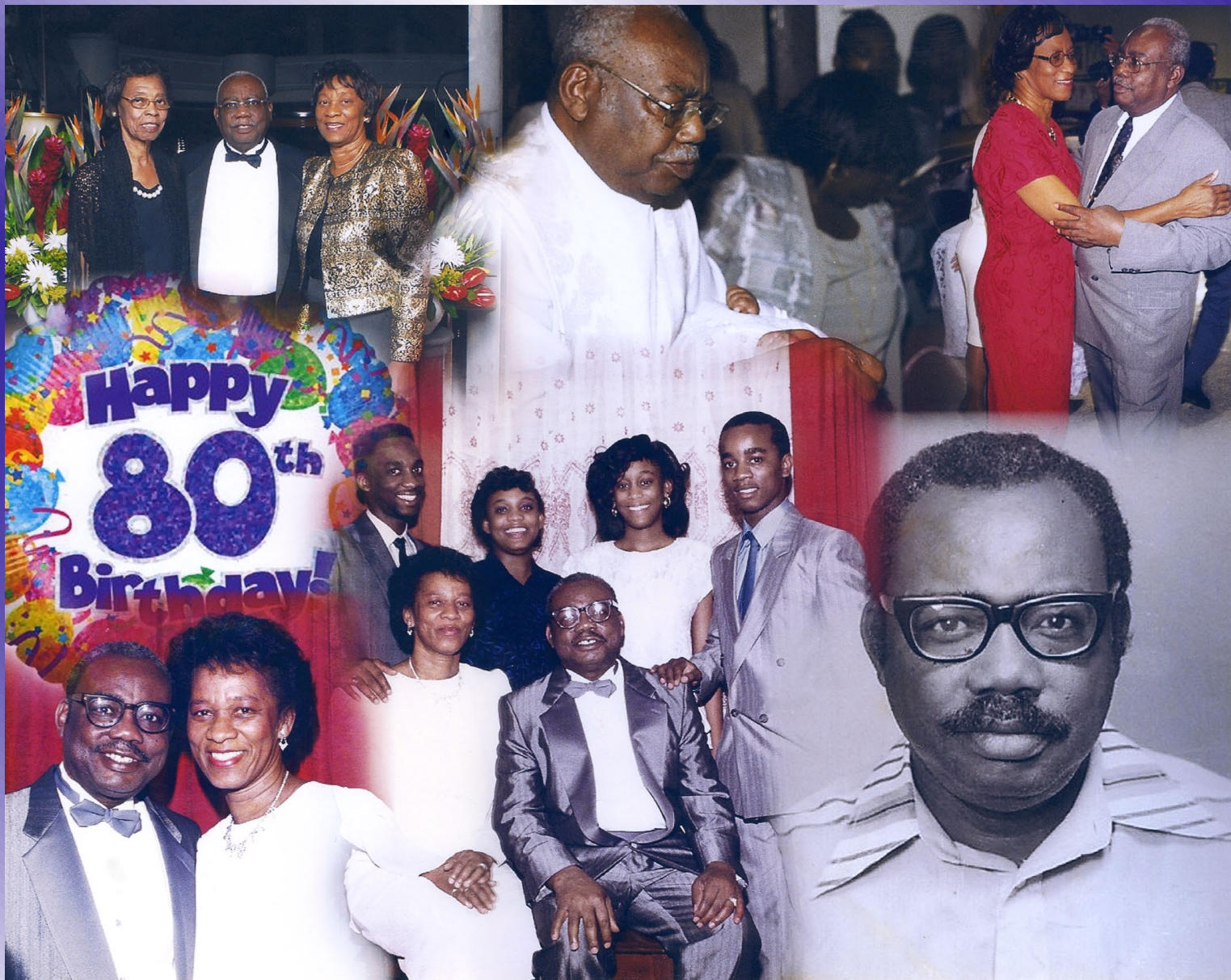
V. Let us go forth in the Name of Christ. / **R.** Thanks be to God!

RECESSIONAL

The Closing Anthems *(Please stand.)*

Priest: Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and giving life to those in the tomb. The Sun of Righteousness is gloriously risen, giving light to those who sat in darkness and in the shadow of death.

The Lord will guide our feet into the way of peace, having taken away the sin of the world. Christ will open the kingdom of heaven to all who believe in His Name, saying, Come, O blessed of My Father; inherit the kingdom prepared for you. Into paradise may the angels lead you. At your coming may the martyrs receive you and bring you into the holy city Jerusalem.



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

— Revelation 21:4

Attendants Serving Today

CELEBRANT

The Rev. Peter George Magill, Assisting Priest

St. John's Episcopal – Kissimmee, Florida

ASSISTING CLERGY

The Rev. John Pollard

Rector of Holy Family Episcopal

The Rev. Arthur Johnson

Canon Lloyd Anthony

MUSIC DIRECTOR

Mr. Roly Rodrigues

MASTER OF CEREMONIES AND ASSISTANT AT THE ALTAR

Mr. Ernest Jordan

Pallbearers

Paul Johnson [Son] • Allan Johnson [Son]

Emanuel Johnson [Grandson] • Nathaniel Johnson [Grandson]

Teddy McLean [Nephew] • Joseph Martin [Grand Nephew]

Committal

A Committal will follow today's service at 2 pm at

Woodlawn Memorial Park and Funeral Home

400 Woodlawn Cemetery Road

Orlando [Gotha], FL 34743

Repast

Following the Committal a repast will be held at

Metro West Church of the Nazarene (THE WAY)

3705 N. Apopka Vineland Road

Orlando, FL 32818

In Appreciation

The Johnson family would like to thank everyone for their love and prayers during their time of bereavement for Valrie Agatha Johnson.

"Rest eternal grant unto Valrie, O Lord. And let light perpetual shine upon her. May her soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace."

— the Family

Services Entrusted To

Woodlawn Funeral Home and Memorial Park

400 Woodlawn Cemetery Road, Orlando [Gotha], Florida 34734

407.293.1361

Also serving families with DIGNITY at the following locations:

Baldwin Fairchild Funeral Home – Winter Garden

Baldwin Fairchild Funeral Home – Winter Park

Baldwin Fairchild Funeral Home – Apopka

Baldwin Fairchild Funeral Home – South Semoran
Family Funeral Care

Coordination Services / Concierge: The Program Lady at jabdesigns.com

more than a program by **jab designs** orlando 407/381-9339

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