Celebration of Life



Roxanne Elaine Yancey

Sunrise
April 26,1953

Sunset
June 8,2023

Memorial Service
June 30, 2023

Bethel A.M.E. Church
38 Walk Hill Street
Jamaica Pain, MA 02130

Officiating
Pastors Dr. Ray Hammond & Dr. Gloria White-Hammond

Order of Service

Welcome	-Pastor Gloria White-Hammond
Prayer of Comfort	-Rev. Dr. Grainger Browning, Jr
Musical Selection	
I Will Not Complain	-Sis. Carrie Johnson
Old Testament Readings	
Proverbs 31:10-25	-Deacon Wendell Bourne, Jr
Isaiah 43:18-19	-Bro. Leon Wilson, Jr
New Testament Readings	
Revelation 4:13	-Bro. Stephen Griffin
1st Corinthians 13:1-13	-Sis. Joyce Simms-Tyson
Musical Selection	
You Can Rest	-Sis. Carrie Johnson
Obituary	-Sis. Sadiqa Yancey
City of Boston Resolutions	-Bro. Charles Yancey
Acknowledgements	-Sis. Denise Montgomery
Reflections	-The Yancey Children
Musical Selection	
Take me to the King	-Sis. Carrie Johnson
Video	-Sis. Roxanne Yancey
Eulogy	-Rev. Vincent Yancey, Sr
Invitation from Pastor Alter Call	-Pastor Ray Hammond
Final Reflections	-Rev. Vincent Yancey, Sr
Recessional	"Oh Happy Day"

Obituary

Roxanne Elaine Francis Yancey

April 26,1953 - June 8,2023

Roxanne Elaine Francis Yancey was born April 26, 1953 to Donald and Alma Francis in Boston, Massachusetts. Roxanne came from a very loving family, both her father and mother doted on her. Roxanne began her education in the Boston Public Schools and was a very bright light there. Roxanne was a gifted student and always curious about the world.

As a young teen, Roxanne was accepted into the A Better Chance Program (ABC) and through ABC, won admission to the Miss Masters School for Young Ladies (Dobbs) in Dobbs Ferry, N. Y. Dobbs was one of the oldest private boarding schools for women in the country. Roxanne was accepted into the freshman class of students in 1968, which was a pivotal year in the lives of African-Americans.

After graduation from Dobbs in 1971, Roxanne entered Simmons College in Boston. Biology and Chemistry were always important study areas for her as she intended to be a nurse. Although Roxanne would never tell anyone this; she was a polymath, being as equally at home with literature and languages as she was with math and science. Roxanne could diagram a sentence, translate Baudelaire in one minute and work a drill in the next.

Only one thing mattered to Roxanne more than her fascination with the world: Vincent Gerald Yancey (Vinnie). Roxanne met Vinnie on Savin Street in Roxbury and she never forgot him. And Vinnie never forgot her; he pursued her from Roxbury to Dobbs Ferry and back again. Vinnie's Ford Galaxy 500XL did road duty during their courtship.

By the first semester at Simmons, Roxanne knew she wanted to start a family of her own with Vinnie. She left Simmons and began her new journey with Vinnie. They were married on May 20, 1972 and as the nursery rhyme says, "lived happily ever after." Happily, does not mean that they did not face trials; it simply means that they were happy to face the world together. Their love never missed a beat for over 50 years.

From the beginning Roxanne and Vinnie opened their home and hearts to almost anyone in need. Roxanne has mentored, nurtured, coached and supported many people over the years. Both of them invested in their friends and family and some lucky friends became family.For 10-plus years Roxanne ran a successful In-Home Day Care Center. Roxanne loved children and she always gave them her best.

Roxanne and Vinnie truly loved the Lord and attended St. Paul's AME Church in Cambridge, MA. Later Roxanne became an active member of Bethel AME Church in Jamaica Plain where she served as a Steward and as a Trustee for many years. In 2015, Roxanne was awarded Bethel's "Outstanding Lay Person of the Year Award".

Roxanne and Vinnie are the proud and loving parents of Vincent Jr., Malik, Sadiqa and Alecia and grand "Meema" to Kiara, Kimora and Emari. Roxanne was preceded in death by her parents Donald & Alma Francis, brother Donald Jr. and twin sisters Robin & Roberta. Roxanne is survived by her loving husband, Vinnie, their four children and three grandchildren. Roxanne also leaves to cherish a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, God-children, relatives and friends.

1 Corinthians 13

The Message

The Way of Love

1 If I speak with human eloquence and angelic ecstasy but don't love, I'm nothing but the creaking of a rusty gate.

2 If I speak God's Word with power, revealing all his mysteries and making everything plain as day, and if I have faith that says to a mountain, "Jump," and it jumps, but I don't love, I'm nothing.

3-7 If I give everything I own to the poor and even go to the stake to be burned as a martyr, but I don't love, I've gotten nowhere. So, no matter what I say, what I believe, and what I do, I'm bankrupt without love.

Love never gives up.
Love cares more for others than for self.
Love doesn't want what it doesn't have.
Love doesn't strut,
Doesn't have a swelled head,
Doesn't force itself on others,
Isn't always "me first"
Doesn't fly off the handle,
Doesn't keep score of the sins of others,
Doesn't revel when others grovel,
Takes pleasure in the flowering of truth,
Puts up with anything,
Trusts God always,
Always looks for the best,
Never looks back,
But keeps going to the end.

8-10 Love never dies. Inspired speech will be over some day; praying in tongues will end; understanding will reach its limit. We know only a portion of the truth, and what we say about God is always incomplete. But when the Complete arrives, our incompletes will be canceled.

11 When I was an infant at my mother's breast, I gurgled and cooed like any infant. When I grew up, I left those infant ways for good.

12 We don't yet see things clearly. We're squinting in a fog, peering through a mist. But it won't be long before the weather clears and the sun shines bright! We'll see it all then, see it all as clearly as God sees us, knowing him directly just as he knows us!

13 But for right now, until that completeness, we have three things to do to lead us toward that consummation: Trust steadily in God, hope unswervingly, love extravagantly. And the best of the three is love.

The family wishes to express our sincere appreciation to everyone for their prayers & support.