

# CELEBRATION OF LIFE

## Bernice R. Oates

### *Pallbearers*

Joshua Allen  
Paxton Allen  
Kenny Oates

Devon Oates  
Kendall Oates  
Kurt Oates

### *Flower Attendants*

Family & Friends

### *Acknowledgements*

The family of **Bernice Oates** recognizes that we are truly blessed with love and friendship. We wish to express our appreciation and sincere gratitude for the many words of comfort and acts of kindness extended to us during this difficult time. May God's richest blessings continue to be with each of you.  
~The Family~

### *Professional Services Entrusted to*

**Edwards Small Mortuary**

*"Committed to Excellence"*



1011 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive  
Fort Valley, GA 31030  
478-825-8700

<https://www.edwardssmallmortuary.com>



May 19, 1937 - January 21, 2025

Saturday, January 25, 2025

2:00 PM

**FAIRVIEW CME CHURCH**

3274 Taylors Mill Road  
Fort Valley, Georgia 31030

PRESIDER ELDER JANE THOMAS, EULOGIST

# Remembering Bernice

**Bernice Oates** was born May 19, 1937 in Montezuma, Georgia. She was born to the parents of Hattie Daniel Russell and Henry Lee Russell.

She attended Macon County and Peach County Schools. She was employed by Fort Valley State College (University) for twenty-one years.

She was married to Ulysses Oates, Sr. for 68 years. Their union created five children.

On Tuesday, January 21, 2025, Bernice gained her heavenly wings at the age of 87 years old.

Bernice was a God-fearing woman. She loved her family and her church. She was a member of Fairview CME Church for 65 years. There she served as a stewardess. She also wanted the younger generation to become involved in the church, so she started the young adult choir.

She is preceded in death by her parents: Henry and Hattie Russell; son, Kenneth Oates and daughter-in-law, Greta Oates.

She leaves to cherish her memories a devoted husband: Ulysses Oates Sr.; children: Curtis (Dorothy) Oates, Tracy (Perry) West, Ulysses Oates, Jr., Marcus(Mary) Oates, daughter-in-law, Valerie Oates; grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and great-great grandchildren; beloved sisters: Hattie Mae Rumph, Earline (William) Daniely, Deloris (Connie) Gordon, Lucille (Freddie) Jefferson, Annie Mae Flowers, and Betty (Eddie) Lowe. Additionally, Bernice is survived by a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

Family  
is a gift  
That Lasts  
forever



# MY EVERYTHING



## My Everything

You're my love, my life,  
the air that I breathe

You're my soul, my happiness,  
the all that I need

You're my light, my dark,  
the stars in the sky.

You're my ups, my downs,  
the reason I try.

You're my strength, my weakness,  
the love from the start.

You're my heartache, my pain,  
the beat of my heart.

You're my tears, my joy,  
in the love that you bring.

You're my world, my galaxy,  
you're my everything.

**Our Matriarch will truly be missed!**



# Order of Service

Officiant, Rev. Leon Williams

Prelude

Processional

Prayer.....Elder Larry Jackson

## Scriptures

Old Testament.....Rev. Dr. Jimmy Wright  
New Testament.....Rev. Stephanie Jefferson

Hymn.....Deacon Eddie Lowe

## Reflections

Two Minutes Please

Song.....Deacon Eddie Lowe

Homegoing Message.....Presider Elder Jane Thomas

Acknowledgements.....Edwards Small Mortuary Staff

Recessional

Postlude



## Interment

Willow Lake Memorial Gardens  
1854 Willow Lake Road  
Fort Valley, Georgia 31030

## Repast

Fairview CME Church  
3274 Taylors Mill Rd  
Fort Valley, Georgia 31030

# AN ANGEL

An angel lived among us,  
A gift from God above.  
She showered us with kindness  
And shared with us her love.  
She cherished every moment  
With the man who was her life;  
Walking hand in hand together,  
Facing life with all its strife.  
She loved her children dearly,  
Each one a different way,  
Nestled close within her heart.  
Though, now, she's far away.  
She's gone to live with Jesus.  
But, she's here with us, today  
Smiling down on every one of us,  
And telling us she's O.K.  
you're my everything.

