

FAMILY
WHERE
life BEGINS
and
love
NEVER ENDS



Our Family

Is a Circle of Strength;
Founded on Faith, Joined in Love
Kept by God, Together

forever

Pallbearers

Alex Gibson Jordan Gibson
Brian Gibson Kalib Gibson
Chadric Gibson Domanick Mabry
Donavon Mabry

Flower Attendants

Nieces

Acknowledgements

The family of the late Brenda Joyce Oates is forever grateful for all the prayers, telephone call, cards, food, messages and visits during this time of bereavement. May God Bless and keep you.
- The Oates Family

REMEMBER ME

Don't remember me with sadness,
Don't remember me with tears,
Remember all the laughter,
We've shared throughout the years.
Now I am contented
That my life it was worthwhile,
Knowing as I passed along the way
I made somebody smile.
When you are walking down the street
And you've got me on your mind,
I'm walking in your footsteps
Only half a step behind.
So please don't be unhappy
Just because I'm out of sight,
Remember that I'm with you
Each morning, noon and night.

~ Author Unknown

Services Entrusted to



Edwards Small Mortuary
"Committed to Excellence"
1011 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive
Fort Valley, GA 31030
<https://www.edwardssmallmortuary.com>
478-825-8700

Celebration
of
Life

Brenda Joyce Oates

SUNRISE
MAY 16, 1951

SUNSET
FEBRUARY 2, 2025

2:00 PM

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2025

USHER'S TEMPLE CME CHURCH
411 Railroad St, Fort Valley, GA 31030



Every Life Has a Story

Brenda Joyce Oates was born May 16, 1951, to the late Lawrence Allen and Mary F. Fluellen Oates. She was the oldest of nine children.

Brenda grew up in Fort Valley, GA. She attended the public school and graduated from H. A. Hunt High, class of 1968. She attended Fort Valley State College, now University, for three years. In 1988, she attended and graduated from Middle Georgia Technical Institute with an associate degree in Childcare.

She joined Usher's Temple C.M.E. Church at the age of 12 and later followed her parents to St. Louis C.M.E. Church. After the death of both parents, Brenda returned to her beginning, Usher's Temple C.M.E. until her untimely death.

Brenda was dedicated to the church and served on several boards, as a stewardess, in the Missionary Ministry of Evangelism, in Lay Ministry, and the Baldwin Green Choir. She was no stranger to working for the Lord and helping where needed. Brenda was gifted in baking and crafts, both serving as her release from the problems around her.

Brenda married Willie J. Gibson, Jr. in 1971. God blessed this union with four beautiful children. Her love for the children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren made the circle complete along with her family and friends. She instilled in them the love of God and to love each other and no matter what, take care of each other.

She was preceded in death by her parents: Lawrence Oates, Jr. and Mary Oates; siblings: Larence Oates, Jr., Melvin and Patricia Oates, Terry Oates and Rita Oates.

Brenda leaves all of the love, hope, dreams, and a blessed life to her children: Alex Emanuel (Stacy) Gibson of Villa Rica, GA; Brian Keith Gibson (Arrika) of Macon, GA; Chadric Lance Gibson of Fort Valley, GA; Dawn Shonette Mabry (Lenard) of Perry, GA.; Grand-children: Rebekah, Kalib, and Jordan Gibson; Makiah Jefferson, Donavon, and Dominick Mabry, Taylor Bowdry, Nicholas Tunstell and Ari Tunstell ; and eight great-grandchildren. Her siblings: Amy Chrystal Oates, Fort Valley, GA; Judy Oates, Fort Valley, GA; Rev. Dr. Kimberly Dugger (James) of Fayetteville, GA; Cedric Allen Oates (Makesha) of Fayetteville, GA; Theron Wade Oates of Ellenwood, GA; two spiritual brothers: Rev. Dr. Donald Williams of Fort Valley, GA and Derrick Meadows of Macon, GA; a very devoted cousin Ruby Mathis of Byron, GA and a spiritual sister, Minister Cynthia Dickey of Perry, GA; two special aunts: Martha Oates Anderson (Johnny) of Hopewell, VA and Betty Jean Oates of Atlanta, GA; devoted uncle, Eugene Fluellen of Fort Valley, GA; a devoted friend, Verline Ballard of Fort Valley, GA; three devoted spiritual sisters: Gloria Stone, Harriet Howard-lifelong neighbors; along with a host of other relatives and friends.



Order of Service

Presiding, Rev. Tawanna Harris, Usher's Temple C.M.E.

Prelude

Processional

Selection.....Minister Dimetria Whittaker

Old & New Testament.....Rev. Dr. Donald Williams
(Spiritual Brother)

LIFE TRIBUTES

Minister Cynthia Dickey (Family)

Mr. Arthur McKenzie (Family)

Mrs. Rosa Hosley (Church Member)

FORMAL READING OF THE OBITUARY

("Well Done" by Deitrick Haddon)

Prayer..... Rev. Tawanna Harris, Usher's Temple

Selection.....Usher's Temple Choir

Eulogy.....Rev. Dr. Kimberly Dugger, Sister

Musical Selection.....Mr. Kiel Jackson, Great-Nephew

Acknowledgements.....Edwards Small Mortuary Staff

Recessional....."Going Up Yonder"

INTERMENT

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

REPAST

Usher Temple CME Church Fellowship Hall
411 Railroad Street
Fort Valley, Georgia 31030