

*The Homegoing Celebration
for the Life of
Robert Berry, Jr.*



Sunrise
January 4, 1936

Sunset
March 4, 2010

March 10, 2010

Haven Memorial United Methodist Church
509 Campbell Street
Winona, MS 38967

Pastor Ada C. Williams, Officiating Minister
Reverend Vicki White, District Superintendent

Let Not Your Heart Be Troubled

Whenever I am troubled
And lost in deep despair
I bundle all my troubles up
And go to God in prayer . . .

I tell Him I am heartsick
And lost and lonely too.
That my mind is deeply burdened
And I don't know what to do . . .

But I know He stilled the tempest
And I humbly ask if in His love
He'll do the same for me . . .

And then I just keep quiet
And think only of thoughts of Peace
And if I abide in stillness
My 'restless murmuring' cease.



Obituary

Robert "Brother" Berry Jr. was born January 4, 1936 in Pontotoc County to the late Robert and Irene White Berry. He was the sixth of nine children. His early education was in Pontotoc County. After the eighth grade he moved to Tupelo to live with an uncle who unexpectedly passed just weeks after his move. He then went to live with Ellis and Pearl Agnew and their children where he lived until he graduated from Carver High School in 1953 and later from Rust College.

Berry was one of the featured speakers at a Race Relations Sunday event his senior year in high school in 1953. An accountant named M. M. Winkler, a member of First Methodist Church in Tupelo, heard Berry speak that day and was so impressed with him that he offered Berry a four-year scholarship to Rust College in Holly Springs.

After graduating from Rust College in 1957, Berry met and married Lena Laverne Lockhart and to that union one son was born; Rory of St. Paul, Minnesota. Berry took a teaching job with the Carroll County School District in Vaiden. He taught for two years and then entered the Army where he served as a water purification specialist at Ft. Belvoir, Virginia, with the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers.

After leaving active duty from the Army in 1961, Berry returned to the field of teaching. He taught again in Carroll County from 1961 to 1965 and in the Winona City School District from 1965 to 1967. Berry earned a Masters degree in 1968 from the University of Mississippi before moving to Greenville to teach at Solomon Junior High School.

In 1969, Berry took a position at Saints Junior College in Lexington as the director of an OEO-funded Migrant Farmers Program until June, 1970, at which time he accepted a job with the North Central Planning and Development District in Winona. Berry was one of the first employees of this newly created agency as an Administrative Assistant and after several years, rose to the position of Executive Director before retiring.

As Administrative Assistant and Senior Loan Officer with North Central Planning, Berry had a tremendous impact on the development of Montgomery County and the surrounding area. He was involved in industrial, recreational and infrastructural development for twenty-six years. Such projects include: the Winona Neighborhood Facility on Powell Street,

Obituary

the Winona Recreational Park adjacent to the hospital, the West Winona Recreational Park, the Kilmichael Recreational Park, tennis courts in Duck Hill, the Winona North Industrial Park and the Kilmichael Industrial Park. Among industries that he assisted in bringing to Montgomery County are Multicraft, Angelica, Krueger International, and Stofurnco, Inc. Berry secured funding for housing, water, sewage and street improvements for the city of Winona, Duck Hill and Kilmichael. He also assisted in implementing the construction of the Tom Dulin Complex.

Robert Berry, Jr. was a prominent leader in community affairs on the local, state and national levels. He was the first black to serve on the Winona Separate School District Board of Trustees. He served for eight years on the school board. He served for several years on the Montgomery County Economic Council of Directors. He was elected Minority Advocate of the year in 1986 by the U. S. Small Business Administration's Jackson office. He received Congressional Recognition in 1976 and the Montgomery County Heritage Achievement award in 1996. He was a member of the Mississippi School Board Association in 1979, the United Methodist Foundation at Mississippi Valley State University and the Grenada-Montgomery County Rust Alumni Chapter.

Berry's association with and work for his church was one of the most important aspects of his life. He confessed faith in Jesus at a young age and worked tirelessly for the church. As a longtime member of Haven United Methodist Church in Winona, he has served in nearly every lay capacity; Equalizer Delegate (Greenwood District) of the Mississippi Conference of the United Methodist Church, Chairman of the Administrative Council, Trustees, PPRC Committee and also served on the Board of Ordained Ministry.

Berry leaves to cherish his memory; his wife of 52 years, Lena L. Berry of Winona, MS; his son, Rory (Jacqueline) Berry of St. Paul, MN; one granddaughter, Jillian Victoria Berry of St. Paul, MN; seven brothers; Charlie Berry, Milwaukee, WI; Ottis (Mary) Berry, Antelope, CA; Oliver (Margaret) Berry and Clarence (Bobbie) Berry, of Chicago, IL; James (Marilyn) Agnew and Frank Agnew of Tupelo, MS; Bennie (Shelia) Agnew of Chicago, IL; three sisters: Mable L. Kirk of Pontotoc, MS; Tommie Pinkins and Pearlean Agnew, of Tupelo, MS and two other sisters-in-law: Lula Mae Davis and Annie L. Lockhart of Vaiden, MS and a host of nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.

Order of Service

Prelude

Processional

Scriptures

Old Testament
New Testament

Reverend Elvernice Dav
Reverend Ozell Landfa

Prayer

Reverend Fred Brow

Acknowledgement

Mrs. Juanita Latha

Resolutions

Mrs. Tela Collin

Obituary

Silent Mus

Expressions

From a former pastor
From a friend
From a co-worker

Reverend C. D. Mille
Reverend J. C. Morga
Mr. Steve Russe

Solo

"It is Well With My Soul"

Bronwyn Metca

Eulogy

Reverend Ada C. Williar

Recessional

Committal & Interment

Vaiden Cemete

Benediction



And I said, Oh that I had wings like a dove! for then would I fly away, and be at rest.

Psalm 55:6 (KJV)



Tributes



The Broken Chain

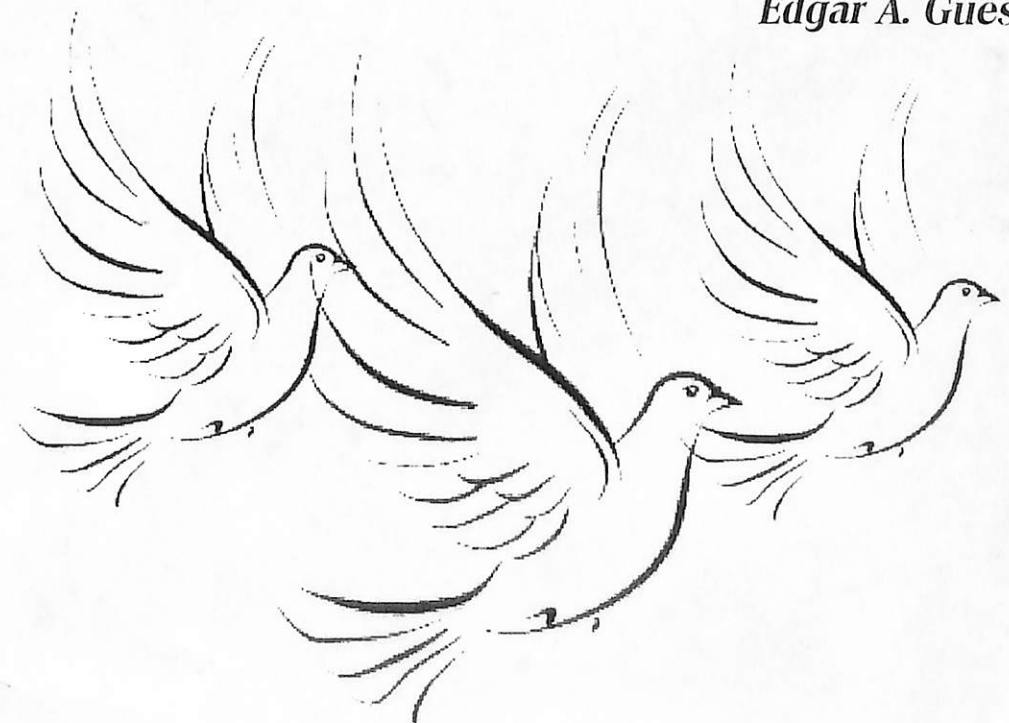
We little knew that morning that God was going to call your name, in life we love you dearly in death we do the same. It broke our hearts to lose you, you did not go alone, for part of went with you the day God called you home. You left us peaceful memories, your love is still our guide; and though we cannot see you, you are always at our side, our family chain is broken and nothing seems the same. But as God calls us one by one, the chain will be linked again.

Tributes

Sermons We See

I'd rather see a sermon than hear one and day,
I'd rather one should walk with me than merely show the way.
The eye is a better pupil and more willing than the ear;
Fine counsel is confusing, but examples always clear;
And the best of all the preachers are the men who live their creeds;
For to see the good in action is what everybody needs.
I can soon learn how to do if if you'll let me see it done.
I can watch your hands in action but your tongue too fast may run.
And the lectures you deliver may be very wise and true;
But I'd rather get my lesson by observing what you do.
For I may misunderstand you and the high advice you give,
But there's no misunderstanding how you act and how you live.

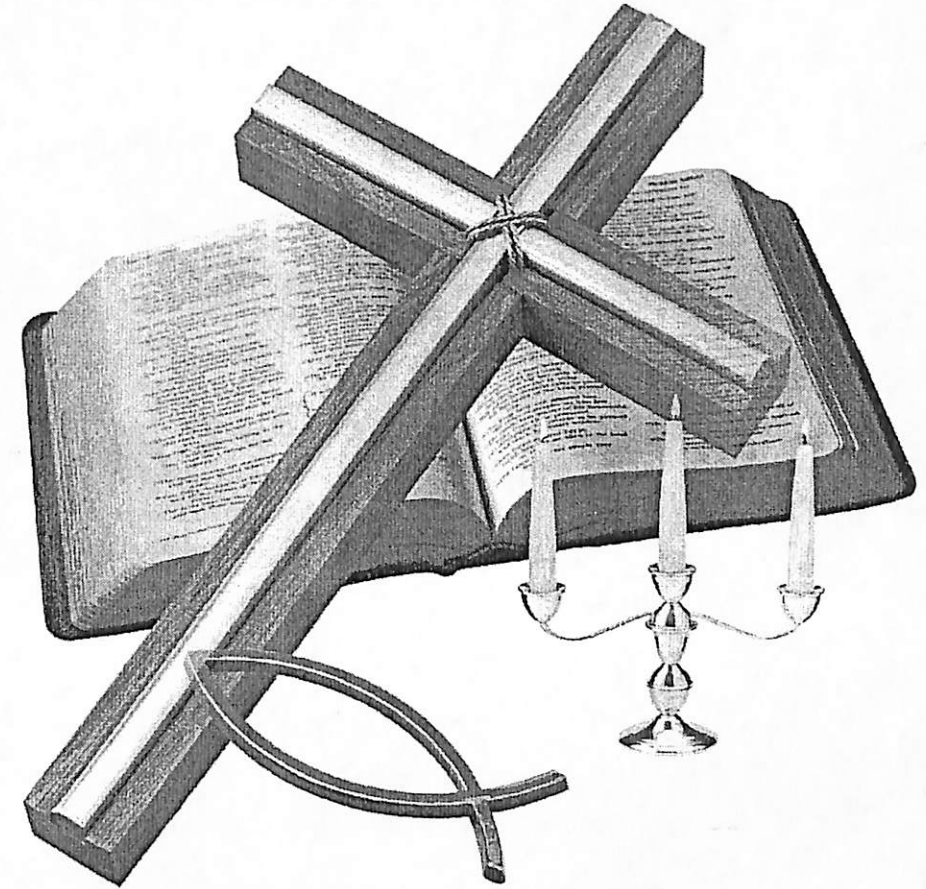
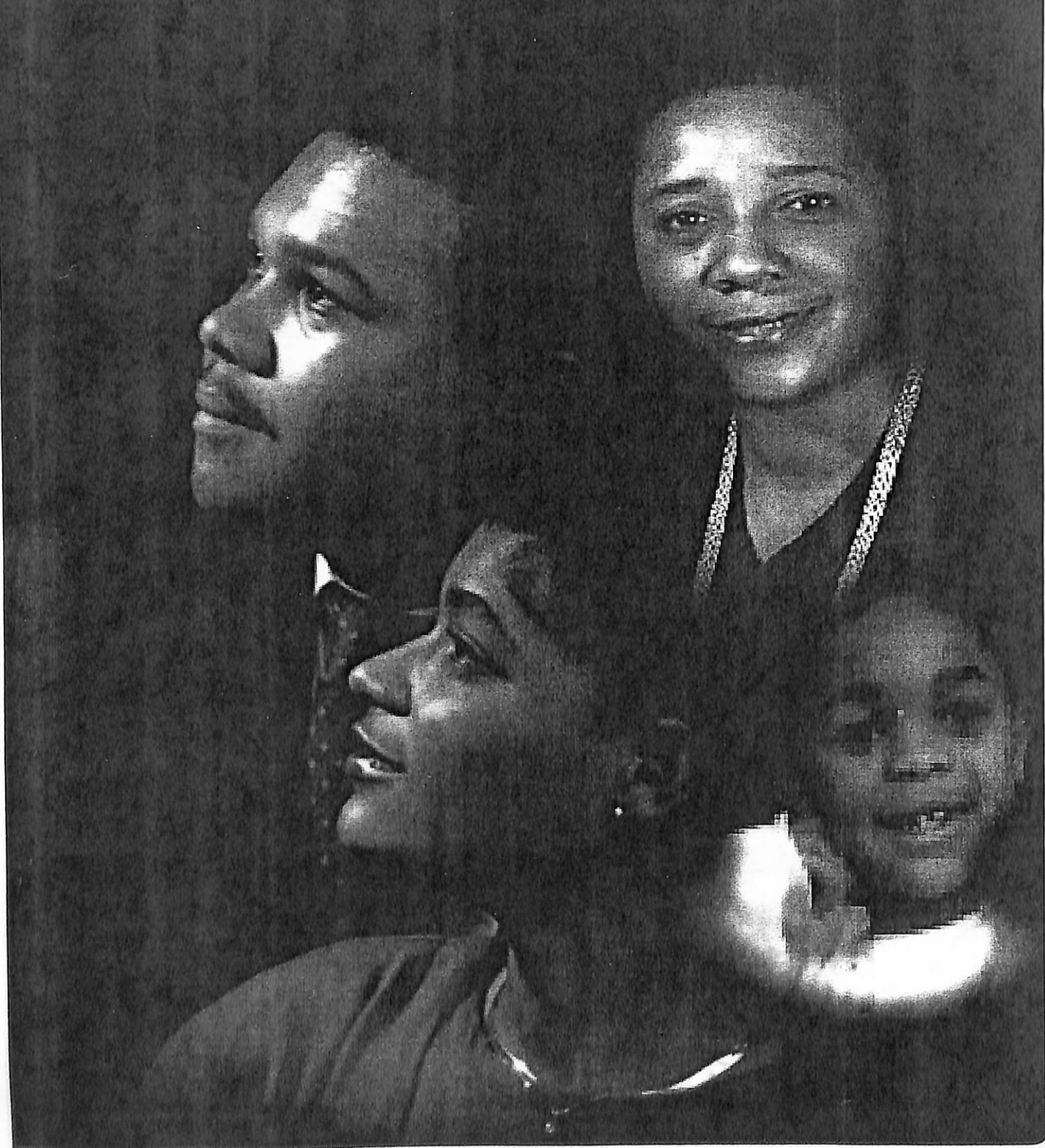
Edgar A. Guest 1926



Tribute

We will lift up our eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh our help.
Our help cometh from the LORD, which made heaven and earth.

Psalm 121:1-2



*And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never
perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.*

John 10:28

Active Pallbearers

Bennie Agnew
Bob Bibbs
Orman Knox
Rio Winters

Paul Bays
Dr. Dale Givens, Jr.
Chris Weathers
Kelvin Winbush

Honorary Pallbearers

Haven United Methodist Men and Clergy

Flower Bearers

Haven United Methodist Women

Interment

Vaiden Community Cemetery

Repast

Haven United Methodist Church
Fellowship Hall



Acknowledgements

Whatever kindness extended is accepted with sincere "Gratitude and Thanks."
In due course we hope to personally express our gratitude to each of you who came, who prayed and who comforted us. This we desire to do when our hearts are again lifted.

~ The Family ~

Arrangements Entrusted to

Roberts and Sons Mortuary
524 Lindsey Roberts, Sr. Memorial Drive
Winona, Mississippi 38967