

A Celebration of the Life
of
Mrs. Jo Ann Sanders Burkhead

DECEMBER 28, 1946 – SEPTEMBER 28, 2009



Vaiden Friendship Missionary Baptist Church

Vaiden, Mississippi

Rev. Eric Nelson, Pastor

Saturday, October 3, 2009

1:00 PM

*"For as the body without the spirit is dead,
so faith without works is dead also."* JAMES 2:26

Active Pallbearers
Nephews

Honorary Pallbearers
Brothers-in-law

Honorary Flower Bearers
Deaconesses

Flower Bearers
Nieces

Acknowledgements

The family of Mrs. Jo Ann Sanders Burkhead thanks you for all your acts of kindness during our time of bereavement. May God bless you.

Interment
Vaiden Community Cemetery
Vaiden, Mississippi

Repast
Vaiden Friendship Missionary Baptist Church Fellowship Hall



Arrangements and Services Entrusted to:
ROBERTS AND SONS MORTUARY
524 Lindsey Roberts, Sr. Memorial Drive
Winona, Mississippi 38967

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Mother

As children, we can't comprehend or fully realize
the meaning of our mother's love, how tender and how wise,
Her patience and her guidance, her helpful, caring ways,
The special, thoughtful things she does to brighten up the days.
Years go by, before we know the depth of her concern,
The love in her protectiveness it takes so long to learn.
But as we grow, we understand, for we look back and see,
Through older eyes and wiser hearts, her love and loyalty.
It's these and many other things that make her grow more dear,
More admired and more appreciated with every passing year.

-----Author Unknown-----

YOUR "BABY GIRLS",

Amy and Ivy



Obituary

Jo Ann Sanders Burkhead was born on December 28, 1946, in Vaiden, Mississippi. She was the daughter of the late Mrs. Hattie Sanders Lockhart and Mr. Lemon Cunningham. Her maternal grandmother, the late Mrs. Lucy Sanders nurtured her in her formative years. Also, Jo Ann had a supportive extended family and community of relatives, church, and school. In other words, she was a product of the proverbial African Village that existed in pre-desegregation and pre-integration days of the South.

At an early age, Jo Ann joined the Vaiden Friendship Missionary Baptist Church and remained a loyal and faithful member, even throughout her extended illness. She held various positions within the church, including that of church secretary, youth leader, and deaconess. Her last position in her church was that of Adult Sunday School Teacher.

Jo Ann received her early education in the public schools of Vaiden and graduated from Vaiden High School in 1965. She received a Bachelor's degree in Home Economics from Alcorn State University and a Master's degree from Mississippi University for Women. Jo Ann was a member of many civic, educational, and social organizations.

Jo Ann was united in Holy Matrimony with Willie Herbert Burkhead on January 7, 1972. To this union twin daughters, Amy and Ivy, were born. She was a faithful, devoted, and loving wife and mother until her demise on September 28, 2009, surrounded by her family at her home after a long and courageous battle against cancer. Throughout her illness, she maintained a strong faith in God. She was preceded in death by her mother and her brother, John L. "Bug" Lockhart, Jr.

Jo Ann's teaching career spanned three decades. Most of her teaching career was spent at Vaiden High School teaching home economics, family and consumer science, and her specialty – sewing and tailoring classes. She was devoted to her career and students, and was considered as a **perfectionist**. Some of her students viewed her as strict; but others viewed her as fair, but firm. She was the epitome of finer womanhood and leaves a legacy of love of God, love of her church, and love of her family and friends.

Jo Ann leaves to cherish her memory, her husband of 37 years, Willie H. Burkhead; two daughters, Amy Burkhead and Ivy Burkhead of Canton, MS; her father, Lemon (Elizabeth) Cunningham, Vaiden; nine sisters and two brothers – Sandra L.(Henry) Brantley, Kosciusko, MS; Brenda (Herbert) Gilbert, Rockville, MD; Kathy Cunningham, Chicago, IL; Reginald (Kandis) Cunningham, Bartlett, TN; Madalyn Porter, Country Club Hills, IL; Dirk Porter, Chicago, IL; Stephanie Vincent, Vaiden; Janice L. (Ronald) Moore, Crowley, TX; Genice L. (Samuel) Ramsey, Burluson, TX; Cindy Cunningham, Chicago, IL; and Angie Lockhart, Montgomery Village, MD; two aunts- Ms. Minnie Sanders and Mrs. Nellie Pickens, Vaiden, MS; In addition, she leaves a best friend and cousin, Lenora (Laney) Elms, Chicago, IL; family friend, Mrs. Rebecca Lockhart, Carrollton, MS; close friends, Irene (Joe Park) Herron and Jessie (Curtis) Meeks, Vaiden; sisters-in-law – Dr. Iely B. (Dr. Abdul) Mohamed, Jackson, MS; and Barbara B. Tate, Vaiden; and a host of nephews, nieces, cousins and friends. Kimberly N. Tate of Atlanta, GA was affectionately known as her "other" daughter.

"I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith."



The Master Called

I'm sorry I had to leave you.
 My loved ones, Oh so dear;
 but you see, the Master called me,
 His voice was very clear.
 I had made my reservation,
 A Heaven bound ticket for one;
 And I knew that He would call me
 When He felt my work was done.
 I know that your hearts are heavy,
 Because I've gone away;
 But when the Master called me,
 I knew that I could not stay.
 Yes, I'm sorry I had to leave you all,
 My loved ones, oh, so dear;
 But you see, the Master called,
 And now I'm resting here.
 Yes, I've crossed over to glory,
 And to you I'll say,
 "Just stay in the hand of the Master
 And we'll meet again some day".