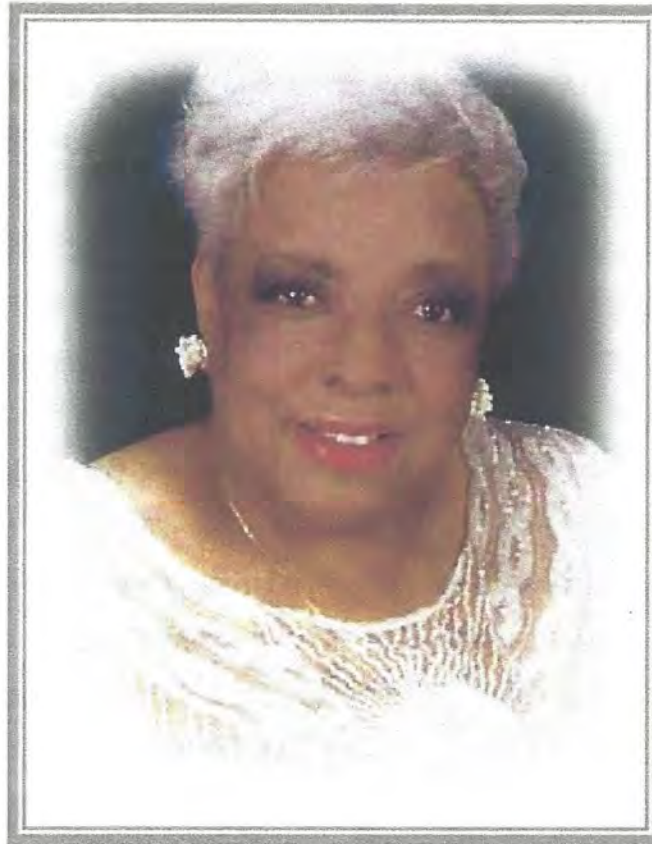


HOME GOING CELEBRATION

In Loving Memory



ARDENA ELIZABETH SIMMONS DIXON

February 24, 1927 – February 16, 2019

Saturday, February 23, 2019

Wake: 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Service: 10:30 a.m.

MACEDONIA BAPTIST CHURCH

718 W. Lafayette Avenue
Baltimore, Maryland 21217

Reverend Arlene E. C. White, *Officiating*

Obituary

FINAL REFLECTIONS ON THE LIFE OF *Ardena Elizabeth Simmons Dixon*

"God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be anymore PAIN; for the former things are passed away." Revelations 21:4

Ardena Elizabeth Simmons Dixon, daughter of the late Albert E. Simmons, Sr. and Sedonia Parker Simmons, was born on February 24, 1927, in Baltimore, Maryland. She departed this life Saturday, February 16, 2019.

Mrs. Dixon was a graduate of Douglas Evening High School, Class of 1949; Coppin State College, 1963; and matriculated at Loyola College 1972 while raising a family with her late husband, Daniel E. Dixon, Jr. and working numerous occupations. Of their union, there were three daughters born: Deidre (deceased -1964), Stephanie and Eris.

Ardena began teaching in 1963. She continued to advance her career in education and became principal of the Dallas F. Nicholas, Sr. Elementary School, #39 for 18½ years. She loved the students, the staff, and the community fiercely. She was aggressive and tenacious in acquiring for them the best of programs, services, and materials from within the school system, and through partnerships, grants, and contributions. Early on in her tenure at #39, she saw a need for the availability of food at certain times of the month for the families of her school community. She began a Food Pantry and Distribution Center at the school. Annually, she assisted the Parent Liaison and the P.T.S.A. in renewing proposals to the Maryland Food Committee for refinancing of this school community outreach. She retired in 1998. Ardena's service and commitment to education did not end with retirement. She served as a Johns Hopkins University supervisor to new teachers for many years after retirement, until December 2009.

Ardena served as a member in numerous church organizations and committees at Macedonia Baptist Church. Among these were Trustee Board, Budget Committee, 100th and 120th Anniversary Committees, The Ladies Guild, Deaconess Board, Missionary Society, Flower Circle, Women's Day Committee, and others. She was appointed Chairperson of the Trustee Board in 1994 and diligently served the church in this position until 2002. Later she was bestowed the title and honor of Trustee Emeritus.

Ardena's social and professional memberships were numerous throughout her years. They included the Foster Care Citizens Review Board, the Baltimore County Pinochle Bugs Social and Civic Club, Inc., the Baltimore Club of the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women, Inc., and Gamma Red Hatters, to name a few. She was accepted into Trinity Chapter No. 5, Order of the Eastern Star in 1995.

Ardena was greatly committed to the National Sorority of Phi Delta Kappa, Inc. and their Perpetual Scholarship Foundation, Inc. Her leadership roles while serving Phi Delta Kappa included Basileus of Gamma Chapter, several positions within the Eastern Region, and she was Supreme Basileus (National President) 1997-2001. She took pride in being an effective change agent at all levels.

Ardena tried to model a good life for her children, grandchildren, siblings, their children, relatives, friends, and neighbors. She lent a helping hand to all in many ways as the need arose. Her grandchildren and great grandchildren were the love of her life.

Ardena leaves to celebrate her home going daughters, Stephanie A. Barham (Arthur) and Eris I. Dixon; granddaughters, Deidre B. Eames (Gregory) and Shanda Knox; grandsons, Gary Shaw and Daniel Dixon; great-granddaughters, Donteris Spence Smith (Asa), LaDena, Asia Eames and Kayla Knox; great-grandsons, Brandon Sommerville and Kameron Shaw; and great granddaughter, Dylan Dixon; sister, Gladys Saunders; sisters in-law, Irma Cassell and Kate Dixon; devoted cousin, Ovella Queen; devoted nieces, Vanessa Brown (Robert) and Marsha Vaden; step granddaughter, Michelle Beasley, step great-grandson, Beysean Beasley, step great-granddaughters, Sharde Twyman (Malcolm), and Shanae White (David), and their children; her secretary of 18½ years, Vanessa Parker Thompson; and a host of additional nieces, nephews, relatives, and friends.



A Tribute To Our Loving Mother

She Walked With God

She walked with God, in the beauty of righteousness and spread joy as she tread.

She walked with God, her fruits all bespeak it, by faith, her children she led.

She walked with God, and His love permeated, from her heart to others she met.

She walked with God, yes, she walked with God, and her sweet presence is still with us yet.

She walked with God, even through her last mile, always trusting Him for her own.

For in faith, in trust, and in confidence, she knew that her last walk was going home.

With Love,

Stephanie and Eris

GO DOWN DEATH – A FUNERAL SERMON

Weep not, weep not,
Ardena is not dead;
She's resting in the bosom of Jesus.
Heart-broken daughters – weep no more;
Grief-stricken granddaughter – weep no more;
Left-lonesome grandchildren – weep no more;
She's only just gone home.

That day on Saturday morning,
God was looking down from his great, high heaven,
Looking down on all his children,
And his eye fell on Sister Ardena,
Tossing on her bed of pain.
And God's big heart was touched with pity,
With the everlasting pity.

And God sat back on his throne,
And he commanded that tall bright angel standing at his right hand'
Call me Death!
And that tall, bright angel cried in a voice
That broke like a clap of thunder:
Call Death! - Call Death!
And the echo sounded down the streets of heaven
Till it reached away back to that shadowy place,
Where Death waits with his pale, white horses.

And Death heard the summons,
And he leaped on his fastest horse,
Pale as a sheet in the moonlight.
Up the golden street Death galloped,
And the hooves of his horse struck fire from the gold,
But they didn't make no sound.
Up Death rode to the Great White Throne,
And waited for God's command.

And God said: Go down, Death, go down.
Go down to Maryland
Down in Baltimore
And find Sister Ardena,
She's borne the burden and heat of the day,
She's labored long in my vineyard,
And she's tired -
She's weary -
Go down, Death, and bring her to me.

And Death didn't say a word,
But he loosed the reins on his pale, white horse,
And he clamped the spurs to his bloodless sides,
And out and down he rode,
Through heaven's pearly gates,
Past suns and moons and stars;
On Death rode,
And the foam from his horse was like a comet in the sky;
On Death rode,
Leaving the lightning's flash behind;
Straight on down he came.

While we were watching round her bed,
Ardena turned her eyes and looked away,
She saw what we couldn't see;
She saw Old Death. She saw Old Death
Coming like a falling star.
But Death didn't frighten Sister Ardena;
He looked to her like a welcome friend.
And Ardena whispered to us: I'm going home,
And she smiled and closed her eyes.

And Death took Ardena up like a baby,
And she lay in his icy arms,
But she didn't feel no chill.
And Death began to ride again -
Up beyond the morning star,
Into the glittering light of glory,
On to the Great White Throne.
And there he laid Sister Ardena
On the loving breast of Jesus.

And Jesus took his own hand and wiped away her tears,
And he smoothed the furrows from her face,
And the angels sang a little song,
And Jesus rocked her in his arms,
And kept a-saying: Take your rest,
Take you rest, take your rest.

Weep not - weep not,
Ardena is not dead,
She's resting in the bosom of Jesus.

Arthur: James Weldon Johnson

Momma, we will forever embrace the lessons you have taught us.
You showed us that being strong was not always just a physical attribute.

You taught us that with a strong and powerful mind
We could achieve greatness beyond our wildest imaginations.
You were our example and reason to never say the word "can't."


But to say **I CAN** and **I WILL**.

You gave us faith in the Lord.

But most of all, you gave us an abundance of love.

From your loving Grandchildren

In Memory of a Dear Grandma



It's always sad but comforting to silently recall,
Your smile and dear familiar face so loved by one and all.
For the world may keep turning and change from day to day,
But precious memories of you will never fade away.
And here's hoping that this message which carries so much love,
Will somehow find its way to you in heaven up above.
It's to let you know dear grandma, that although you are at rest,
You'll live forever in the hearts of those who loved you best!

Lovingly Yours,
Great Grandchildren

PALLBEARERS

Nephews
Grandsons
Great-grandson

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Our family, the church, her sorority and other affiliations express their deepest appreciation for your acts of caring kindness during Ardena's illness and time of bereavement.

INTERMENT

Arbutus Memorial Park
1101 Sulphur Spring Road
Baltimore, Maryland

REPAST

Immediately following services
In the Lower Auditorium
Macedonia Baptist Church

Services entrusted to
March Funeral Home-West Baltimore
4300 Wabash Avenue
Baltimore, Maryland 21215



"I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith:
Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord,
the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only,
but unto all them also that love his appearing."

2 Timothy 4:7-8