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### 2008-03-14; Pamphlets; A Service of Remembrance and Celebration for The Rev Alicia J Blake

Lincoln Memorial United Methodist Church

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**A Service of  
Remembrance and Celebration  
for  
The Rev. Alicia J. Blake**



**Given to us May 5, 1957  
Given back to God March 14, 2008**

### **In Memory of Pastor Alicia J. Blake**

Rev. Alicia J. Blake, 50, formerly of Hagerstown, MD, died Friday, March 14, 2008 at the Millard Fillmore Gates Hospital, Buffalo, NY.

Born May 5, 1957 in Winchester, VA she was the daughter of the late Harmon G. and Mary L. (Davis) Byrd, Sr. She was the wife of Pastor JT Blake of Buffalo, NY.

Pastor Alicia was a graduate of James Wood High School, Frederick County, VA., Class of 1975. She also graduated from James Madison University, Harrisonburg, VA, with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Communication Arts. Alicia later obtained her Masters of Divinity Degree from Howard University School of Divinity in Washington, DC.

She was the Pastor of Lincoln Memorial United Methodist Church in Buffalo, NY. She served as a volunteer chaplain at The Family Justice Center in Buffalo, and also served on the board of Niagara Frontier City Ministries.

In addition to her husband JT, Alicia is survived by a son, Durrell W. Blake of Amherst, NY, sisters, Floretta and husband Clarence Irvin of Pittsburgh, PA, and Cecily and husband Dennis Haston of Winchester, VA, a brother, Harmon and wife Clarissa Byrd, Jr. of Winchester, VA and several nieces and nephews. She is also survived by a sister in law, Cheryl Plummer, and Mother in Law, Elder Maxine Blake of Hagerstown, MD.

Pastor Alicia's top three loves in life were being a Wife, Mother, and Pastor. She had a great love for music, directed several choirs and has been singing in choirs since high school. Alicia served as Pastor in the Cumberland, MD area at Davis Memorial and McKendree United Methodist Churches. She also served at John Wesley United Methodist Church in Front Royal, VA.

Pastor Alicia gave all she had in service to Christ, to his Holy Church, and to this world for which Christ died. Her generous, caring spirit lives on today through organ donation.

From JT & Durrell: Alicia (mom), please let the heavenly choir director do their job...we know the first thing you did was take off your shoes, bump them from their post and took over (ha ha). We still hear your music mom, it sounds real good to us! LOVE YOU & MISS YOU.

To all of you: Please support cancer research as you are able; "Cancer sucks."

**Lincoln Memorial United Methodist Church**  
**April 12, 2008**

**Order of Worship**

**Prelude**

Brother Willie Dorsey

**Anthem:**

*The Reverend Richard G. Stewart "Right Now" Choir*

**Greetings and Words of Comfort**

The Rev. Patricia L. Brown

**Processional Hymn:**

"Standing on the Promises"

#374

**Prayer**

The Rev. Richard G. Stewart

**Psalm 61**

Durrell W. Blake  
Certified Lay Speaker

**Celebration in Dance**

*The Lincoln Praise Dancers*

Isabell Travis, Director

**Personal reflections**

- Mr. Harmon G. Byrd, brother
- Elder Maxine A. Blake, mother-in-law
- The Rev. Regina Reese-Young, Calvary Christian Methodist Episcopal Church
- Amina Boyd, Lincoln Memorial United Methodist Church
- Virginia Robinson Wagner, Lincoln Memorial United Methodist Church
- Claudia Moguel, Lincoln Memorial United Methodist Church
- Representatives from the Medical Community



**Anthem:**

*Lincoln Memorial United Methodist Gospel Choir*  
Bro. Willie Dorsey

**Personal reflections**

- Rev. Angela Stewart, Metropolitan United Methodist Church
- Rev. Richard G. Stewart, President, African Methodist Minister's Alliance of WNY
- Rev. Mary Kelly, Niagara Frontier City Ministries, Inc.
- Rev. Daryl Bennett, Williamsville UMC
- Rev. Merle E. Showers, retired member, the United Methodist Church
- Rev. Dorothea Schweitzer, Tonawanda UMC, Bethany UMC; and Cheryl Glose - friends

**Anthem:**

*Metropolitan United Voices*

Sis. Cathy Sharpe

**Reading of Greetings and Obituary**

Cecily Haston

**Reading from Scripture**

LaVerne Ampadu and  
Amina Boyd

Job 19: 23-27a  
II Corinthians 5  
Revelations 21: 1-7

**Hymn:**

"Blessed Assurance"

#369

**Sermon:**

"An Extreme Makeover"  
Bishop Violet L. Fisher  
Presiding Bishop, New York West Area, The United Methodist Church  
....and Alicia's Spiritual Mom

**Anthem:**

**"Now I'm On My Way"**  
*Metro-Linc Combined Choirs*

Rev. JT Blake  
Durrell W. Blake

### **The Sacrament of Holy Communion**

Bishop Violet L. Fisher  
Rev. Natalie A. Hanson, Superintendent, Niagara Frontier District

#### **Prayer of Confession and Words of Assurance**

**L:** O Breath of Life, Divine Comforter, Eternal Hope; we open our hearts before you, confessing that, without you, we are broken, incomplete, and trapped in fear. But we are not alone! Hear our prayers, O God, and let us hear you, that we may let go of fear – and live.

*- silence -*

**L:** Here is God's grace and our glory: before ever we knew God, God knew and knows Us! Before ever we called upon God's name, God called and is calling us. Beloved, lay down your burdens, for in the name of God you are loved and forgiven!

**P: In the name of God, you are loved and forgiven!**

**L:** Alleluia!

**P: Amen!**

#### **The Great Thanksgiving**

**L:** The Lord be with you!

**P: And also with you!**

**L:** Lift up your hearts;

**P: We lift them up to the Lord!**

**L:** Let us give thanks to God!

**P: It is right to give our thanks and praise!**

**L:** It is right, and good, especially in the face of death, especially when we consider the meaning of life, to give God our thanks and praise.... and so with all the saints around us, in the spirit of all the saints who have made us, in communion with all the saints and angels in heaven, we lift up our voices, crying:

**P: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might! Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!**

L: In this holy moment we remember Jesus....and so we are bold to proclaim our faith, saying:

P: **Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again!**

L: O Holy Spirit, pour out your power upon these gifts, this loaf and this cup, and pour out your power upon and among us....all glory is yours, Eternal God: Creator, Christ, and Holy Spirit! Amen!

P: **Alleluia! Alleluia! Amen!**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
Hallowed be thy name!  
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done  
On earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread,  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
As we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil;  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever!  
Amen.**

### **Words of Institution**

### **The Invitation**

### **Sharing the Bread and the Cup**

*...Communion will be shared by intinction. Please come forward to the nearest 'station' as the ushers direct, receive the bread, dip it into the cup, and partake; returning to your seat by the outer aisles. If walking is difficult for you, let an usher know, and we will be glad to serve you where you are...*

### **Anthems**

*Lincoln Memorial United Methodist Senior Choir  
Mr. Tim Kennedy*

### **Prayers of Thanksgiving & Commendation**

Rev. Natalie A. Hanson

**Hymn:**

**"Leaning on the Everlasting Arms"**

*Combined Choirs*

*The Rev. JT Blake, Keyboard*

*The congregation, 'Leaning'*

**Benediction**

Bishop Violet L. Fisher

**Recessional**

Brother Willie Dorsey

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*The family wishes to thank you for presence here today.  
You have graced our lives in so many ways!*

*Please join us for a meal following the service,  
upstairs in the Fellowship Hall,  
for more story-telling and fellowship.*

*Today we especially want to thank Lincoln Memorial United Methodist Church  
and its pastor, the Rev. Patricia Brown, for their love and hospitality.*

*We are so thankful for all the musicians, readers, and speakers  
who have lifted our hearts....and we want to acknowledge the special friends  
and colleagues who assisted as communion stewards and ushers.*

But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength;  
They shall mount up with wings as eagles;  
They shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk and not faint.

**- Isaiah 40: 31**



## **In Appreciation**

The family of Pastor Alicia J. Blake expresses our heartfelt thanks to all of you who supported us with your kindness, comfort, and care during her battle with cancer and after her death on March 14, 2008. Pastor Alicia was born May 5, 1957.

For all of the prayers, well wishes, visits, calls, cards, food, generous donations and other forms of support including those who cleaned the house, washed our clothes, and gave respite during our time of caregiving...we say THANK YOU.

We offer special thanks to Bishop Violet Fisher, Bishop Wilbert Baltimore, Bishop Sterling Porter, Rev. Natalie Hanson, Rev. Regina Reese-Young, Elder Darin Mency, Rev. Yvonne Mercer-Staten, Rev. Loyce Smith, Rev. Serena Parks, Dr. Gene Rice, Sister Marion Bouie and Sister Tracy Brown.

Special thanks to Greater Campher Temple - Hagerstown, MD, Davis Memorial and McKendree United Methodist Churches - Cumberland, MD, John Wesley United Methodist Church - Front Royal VA, Asbury United Methodist Church - Hagerstown, MD, The Western New York Conference, Baltimore/Washington Conference, Cumberland/Hagerstown District and Niagara Frontier District of the United Methodist Church. We also thank the Howard University School of Divinity, and the African Methodist Ministers Alliance of Western New York.

Very Special thanks to Lincoln Memorial United Methodist Church where Alicia pastored, and Metropolitan United Methodist Church (both of Buffalo, NY) where JT currently serves as Pastor. Durrell, JT and the family could not have made it without our awesome church families.

We want to give a special thank you to the members of the medical community who cared for Alicia – and for us – during these past months, and who made it clear that we mattered.

May God richly bless, reward, and shine upon all of you... Love to you all.