

Service of Witness to the Resurrection
For
Gwendolyn Davidson Cunningham
February 12, 1919- July 2nd, 2013



**Wednesday, July 10, 2013
12:00 P.M.**

**Memorial Presbyterian Church
2600 Beatties Ford Road
Charlotte, North Carolina
Reverend Edward B. Newberry, Pastor**

The Obituary of Gwendolyn M. Davidson Cunningham

Gwendolyn M. Davidson Cunningham departed this life Tuesday, July 2nd, 2013 at her home on Bradford Lake Lane in Charlotte, NC. Mrs. Cunningham, daughter of the late Reverend Robert James Sylvester Davidson and the late Francis Violet Wilson Davidson, was born February 12th, 1919 in Iron Station NC.

The eldest of six children; Thelma, Charles, Arthur, Walter and James, Gwendolyn spent the early years of her life with her family at Western Union Academy in Spindale, N C. where her father was Superintendent and Principal.

The family moved to Kings Mountain, NC in the late 1920s where her father was principal of a local school which later became Davidson High School. Gwendolyn and Thelma went to Lincoln Academy, an American Missionary boarding school, for junior high and high school students. Gwendolyn and Thelma graduated from Lincoln Academy in 1934.

The Reverend R.J. Davidson pastored at Shiloh Baptist Church, Shelby, NC; Hope Well Baptist Church, Shelby, NC, and Ebenezer Baptist Church, Kings Mountain, NC. Gwendolyn and Thelma were active participants in his pastorate. Gwendolyn and Thelma often read scriptures, sang solos, and took meeting minutes. Frances Wilson Davidson was a school teacher and a funeral home director. Gwendolyn was equally involved in her mother's efforts to comfort families especially children at funerals.

Gwendolyn and her siblings were members of a structured well-organized family. They sat down to eat meals three times a day at a table covered with a white table cloth. They had designated hours for study, language acquisition, and piano practice. For many years, Gwendolyn and Thelma were designated to collect the rents from their father's rental properties. Clients learned they were as stern and businesslike as their disciplined father.

Gwendolyn's years at Lincoln Academy were filled with winter session educational experiences and summer attendance at many annual events such as the annual meetings of the YMCA. At these events, she met many of the world's religious and social activist leaders, including the late Howard Thurman. Gwendolyn and Thelma were flower girls in his and Sue Bailey's wedding.

As young teens, Gwendolyn and Thelma were enrolled in the Barber-Scotia Seminary, Concord, NC. This was the higher education institution for the girls of

the Davidson family. Gwendolyn's father often remarked that the year his oldest sister, Maggie, enrolled in Barber- Scotia Seminary 1883, was the same year of his birth. Gwendolyn later earned her B.A. degree from Bennett College in Greensboro, NC where she graduated with honors. She then earned her M.A. degree at Teachers College, Columbia University, New York City. She did further studies at Howard University, Washington, D.C., the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, and the University of North Carolina, Charlotte.

Mrs. Cunningham was a master teacher and an exceptional educational leader. She taught in the Cleveland County School System. Gwendolyn served with distinction as Principal of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg school system's Double Oaks and Oaklawn Elementary Schools. She was honored as Outstanding Elementary School Principal in 1975 and 1982. She was also the Education Coordinator of the Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools' Head Start Pilot Program. Ms. Cunningham was the Division of Teacher Education Chairperson and Associate Professor of Teacher Education at Barber - Scotia College.

Gwendolyn Cunningham held memberships in many professional and social organizations including: the Phi Delta Kappa, Association for the Supervision of Curriculum Development; the National Association of Elementary Principals; the National Education Association; the International Reading Association; the American Association of University Women; the Alpha Kappa Mu National Honor Society, and the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

Mrs. Cunningham served on the boards of the North Carolina Mental Health Authority Board; the Charlotte, NC United Way Board of Directors, and the Foundation of the Carolinas Board of Directors. Gwendolyn was elected to serve as the Co-Moderator of the Charlotte, NC Presbytery, Presbyterian Church (USA). Gwendolyn Cunningham was a member of the First United Presbyterian Church of Charlotte, NC.

Gwendolyn was married to the late Daniel (Dan) Milton Cunningham of Lancaster, NC. Theirs was a loving partnership. Their home was a haven to the family and the site of many wonderful social events.

Gwendolyn Cunningham had a strong and positive sense of Self. She was secure in her personal accomplishments, knowledge of her chosen field and passionate in her every effort to support and to nurture family, friends and children.

Gwendolyn M. Davison Cunningham leaves to celebrate her life: one sister, Thelma C. Davidson Adair, Ed.D. of New York City; a myriad of nephews and nieces and their descendants as well as a host of friends and love ones.

The Family of Gwendolyn Davidson Cunningham

The Late Reverend Robert James Sylvester and Francis Violet Wilson Davidson (Parents)

Thelma C. Davidson Adair Ed.D., Sister. *The Reverend Arthur Eugene Adair, (Deceased)*

Robert Aton Adair, Sr. MD. M.P.H. (*Alicine Ross Adair*)
Kai Nneka Adair, Esq. (*Scorey DuBose*)
Sasha DuBose, Kennedy DuBose, Scorey DuBose, Kobe DuBose
Robert Aton Adair Jr., Barbara Jean Adair,
Alexandra Elizabeth Adair, Ross Davidson Adair
Jeanne Davidson Adair, Ed.D.
Clarence Eugene Mevs, MBA (*Darly Davis Mevs, Esq.*)
Kelsey Simone Mevs, Maxwell Alexander Mevs
Jean Louis Osei Mevs, MPH (*Courtney Stevens Mevs*)
Sophia Adair Mevs, Jonathan Owen Mevs
The Reverend Richard Bomar Adair

Charles Robert Davidson, MD., Brother (Deceased). *Margaret Roseboro Davidson, (Deceased)*

Margaret Chiquatia Davidson Hayes MD, (*Philip Wesley Hayes, M.D.*)
Philip Wesley Hayes Jr, M.D., Christina Hayes, Kelly Hayes, Jennifer Hayes
Wanda Lenee Davidson, DDS.
Charles Robert Davidson II, Esq.
Russell Milton Davidson

Arthur Turner Davidson Sr., M.D. Esq. Brother (Deceased). *Jenny White Davidson, (Deceased)*

Arthur Turner Davidson Jr., M.D., (*Yolanda Bernez Davidson*)
Arthur Turner Davidson III, Christopher George Davidson
Ronald Davidson, M.D. (Deceased) (*Montez Cadwell Davidson*)
Tyes Davidson, Kasara Davidson, Esq., Linara Davidson
Amara Davidson, Tamara Davidson
Michael Davidson DDS
The Honorable Katherine Ezeria Davidson
Raquel Davidson Brown, MA

Walter Thomas Davidson, DDS., Brother (Deceased).

The Honorable Patricia Davidson Welsh (*The Honorable Martin T. Welsh*)
Laura Ann Welsh., Martin. T Welsh Jr., Sarah Ann Welsh

James Sylvester Davidson, DDS, Brother (Deceased).