



**Words to my Mother**

*As I awaken this morning with you on my mind, thinking about you and all your wise sayings:  
People get ready the train is coming, don't need a ticket just get aboard.  
Because I truly believe He's picking up passengers  
from coast to coast and  
I want to be ready to walk in Jerusalem just like John.  
Going to save a seat for you because I'm on the Battlefield  
working for my Lord.  
I have been Young and Restless, Bold and Beautiful, and asked to Create  
in me a clean heart, God, and to renew a right spirit within me. But this  
storm of life is over and I'm at peace now. I have my two wings and  
going home to glory. Just sending up my Timber Everyday.  
To all my loved ones, I love and appreciate you and  
don't forget that in your  
comings and goings seek GOD first and all his righteousness; and all  
these things shall be added unto you.  
I Love you dearly mother and thank you,*

By Linda, your daughter

**To Those Whom I Love & Those Who Love Me**

*When I am gone, release me, let me go.  
I have so many things to see and do,  
You mustn't tie yourself to me with too many fears,  
But be thankful we had so many good years.*

*I gave you my love, and you can only guess  
How much you've given me in happiness.  
I thank you for the love that you have shown,  
But now it is time I travelled on alone.*

*So grieve for me a while, if grieve you must,  
Then let your grief be comforted by trust.  
It is only for a while that we must part,  
So treasure the memories within your heart.*

*I won't be far away for life goes on.  
And if you need me, call and I will come.  
Though you can't see or touch me, I will be near.  
And if you listen with your heart, you'll hear,  
All my love around you soft and clear.*

*And then, when you come this way alone,  
I'll greet you with a smile and a "Welcome Home".*



**Honorary Pall Bearers**

Keith Prince     Robert Waller  
Frank Fells

**Pall Bearers**

Eugene Jackson     Calvin Ruffin Sr.  
Magel Smith         Neil Terrell  
Dale Waller         William Woody

**Flower Girls**

Dolores Ford     Glinda Freeman  
Marsha Gaines     Connie Simms  
Maxine Iverson     Jill Smith

**Two Mothers Remembered**

*I had two Mothers - two Mothers I claim  
Two different people, yet with the same name.  
Two separate women, diverse by design,  
But I love them both because they were mine.*

*The first was the Mother who carried me here,  
Gave birth and nurtured and launched my career.  
She was the one whose features I bear,  
Complete with the facial expressions I wear.*

*She gave her love, which follows me yet ,  
Along with the examples in life she set.  
As I got older, she somehow younger grew,  
And we'd laugh as just Mothers and daughters do.*

*But then came the time that her mind clouded so,  
And I sensed that the Mother I knew would soon go.  
So quickly she changed and turned into the other,  
A stranger who dressed in the clothes of my Mother.*

*Oh, she looked the same, at least at arm's length,  
But now she was the child and I was her strength.  
We'd come full circle, we women three,  
My Mother the first, the second and me.*

*And if my own children should come to a day,  
When a new Mother comes and the old goes away,  
I'd ask of them nothing that I didn't do.  
Love both of your Mothers as both loved you.*

**Acknowledgements**

The family expresses their sincere appreciation for all condolences, words of comfort and prayers. The family is grateful for everyone who visited and shared kindness. The family is grateful for the love and support you have shown through this difficult time.

May God bless you.  
The Family

Final Arrangements Entrusted to



104 Green Chimney Ct. | Ashland, VA 23005 | 804.752.8460  
1808 Princess Anne Street | Fredericksburg, VA 22401 | 540-899-6090  
www.owensfuneralservices.com



*Homegoing Service of  
Sylvester A. Dabney*



*Sunrise*  
September 28, 1925

*Sunset*  
June 7, 2018

**Friday, June 15, 2018  
12 noon**

**St. James Baptist Church  
14482 Old Ridge Road, Beaverdam, VA 23015**



## Order of Service

## Her Life



Prelude .....Sis Tina Womack

The Processional..... Clergy, Family & Friends

Musical Selection ..... Choir

Scripture Readings ..... Old and New Testament

Prayer of Consolation

Chant ..... Choir

Musical Selection ..... Renee Greene and Choir

Acknowledgements and

Reading of Obituary .....Church Clerk

Poem Reading..... Janet Waller

Reflections ..... Family, In-laws & Friends

Solo .....Rolanda Lee

Eulogy ..... Rev W. T. Carter

Recessional

*Sylvester A. Dabney* entered eternal rest on Thursday, June 7, 2018 at St. Mary's Hospital in Richmond, Va. She was born on September 28, 1925 to the late John T. Anderson and Pearl Smith Anderson of Coatesville, VA. She was educated at Jenny Nelson School in Coatesville, VA. She accepted Christ at an early age.

She was preceded in death by her parents, eight of her siblings, and two of her sons (Warren J. Dabney and Hazel E. Dabney).

Sylvester Dabney was a longtime member of St. James Baptist Church where she had served as an usher and a choir member. She loved the Lord and enjoyed singing in the church choir, her signature songs were "Walk in Jerusalem Just Like John" and "On the Battlefield for the Lord". Whenever there was something going on at her church (or any other church in the community), she tried to be there, even if she had to catch a ride. She loved to get dressed up, wear her jewelry and her beloved hats.

Mrs. Dabney absolutely loved people. She would never miss the opportunity to endearingly tell you "I love you." She treated every young person as her own child. She took in many who did not have a place to go. She was the neighborhood barber and beautician, as well as, driving instructor (even when she did not have a license of her own). She could often be found cooking and feeding others as it brought her great joy to be able to do so.

More recently, due to illness, she moved to the Ashland Convalescent center. An instant friendship was formed between her and her roommate (Ms. Joyce). As evidence of her loving and caring nature, she felt it her responsibility to care for her roommate although she was there to be cared for herself.

Sylvester worked for many years as a domestic engineer. She was also employed for quite some time at Kings Dominion in Doswell, VA.

Mrs. Dabney leaves to cherish her memory: her loving husband of 73 years, David E. Dabney; three daughters, Regina M. Bray (Reverend Karl), Linda I. Ruffin, and Marie V. Iverson; five sons, David L. Dabney (Patricia), Clyde C. Dabney (Alice), James R. Dabney (Peggy), Allen D. Dabney (Tara), and Craig A. Dabney; two daughter-in-laws Betty Ann Dabney and Gloria T. Dabney; thirty grandchildren; fifty-two great-grandchildren; innumerable great-great-grandchildren; one sister, Reverend Iola Smith; one brother-in-law, Deacon Spencer Curtis; a host of nieces, nephews, other family, friends and loved ones (many who loved and cared for her as "Mom").