



*Joyce
Lives!*



*In my distress
I called upon
the Lord;
to my God
I cried for
help. From
his temple
he heard my
voice, and my
cry to him
reached
his ears.*

~ Psalm 18:6 (ESV)



THE HOMEGOING CELEBRATION OF
DEACON JOYCE MCNAIR KELLY

April 2, 1948 - September 29, 2026

Dr. W. Franklyn Richardson, Senior Pastor
Grace Baptist Church
52 South 6th Avenue
Mount Vernon, N.Y. 10550

October 10, 2026 | 10:00 a.m.



*She leaves
behind a
family who
loved her
deeply, but
she has
gone ahead
to a place
where there
is no sorrow,
no pain,
and no
goodbye—
only peace,
rest, and the
presence
of God.*

ORDER OF SERVICE

Presiding, Reverend William M. Mizell

PRELUDE

Derrick James
Minister of Music

PROCESSIONAL

Pastor Richardson, Clergy & Family

OPENING HYMN

"Blessed Assurance"

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Old Testament Scripture: Psalm 46
Rev. Shelia Evans-Simmons

New Testament Scripture: Romans 8:28-39
Rev. William F. Richardson, III

PRAYER OF CONSOLATION

Pastor H. Lee Jordan, Jr., Pastor
Shiloh Baptist Church | New Rochelle, NY

RELECTIONS

Deacon Timothy Marshall | Grace Baptist Church
Paul Porter, Trustee Chair | Shiloh Baptist Church
The Family – Elder Lowes Moore, Jr. (Oldest Nephew)

SACRED MUSIC

Deacon Juana Johnson

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Deacon Joan Lloyd

OBITUARY

Shireyll Moore-Pogue (Great Niece)

SACRED MUSIC

Minister Derrick L. James

HYMN OF COMFORT

"Amazing Grace"

EULOGY

Pastor Richardson

RECESSIONAL

"Jesus Keep Me Near the Cross"

ABOUT DEACON JOYCE MCNAIR KELLY

April 2, 1948 - September 29, 2026

On Friday, April 2, 1948, in the town of Plymouth, N.C., Joyce was born as the last child to the late James Earl McNair and the late Martha Jane Blount McNair. Joyce McNair Kelly's earthly journey ended early in the morning on Monday, September 28, 2026, after a brief illness.

Joyce's Christian journey began at an early age, as she was baptized in the "Sound River" after joining the Second Zion Grove Church in Plymouth, NC, where she attended Sunday school and sang in the choir.

Joyce was a proud 1966 graduate of Washington County Union High School, celebrating 60 years of her high school reunion in June 2026. She continued her education at A & T State University in Greensboro, NC and Iona College, New Rochelle, NY.

Joyce relocated to Mount Vernon, N.Y. in 1968 and joined Grace Baptist Church that same year under the pastorate of Rev. Samuel Austin. She would call home (Plymouth, N.C.) every Sunday and "Mother" Martha would say, "Baby did you go to Church today"? So, Joyce decided to go to church on Sundays. The rest is history – she joined the Young Adult Choir and Usher Board. Over the years she attended Sunday Church School and later became a Sunday School Teacher, a part of the Stewardship and Catering Ministries and a volunteer for the Vacation Bible School. Under the pastorate of Rev. Dr. W. Franklyn Richardson,

Joyce was the Church Clerk from January 2000 until her passing. In 1997, she was recognized during the Women's Convocation for exhibiting faith, courage, stewardship, dedication and loyalty to her church. Joyce's name joined other women on the "Wall of Honor Citation" in the Chapel of Five Women at Grace Baptist Church. Then, having been chosen a person 'of good report, full of the Spirit and of Wisdom, and capable of serving well, Joyce was set apart publicly to the office and work of Deacon. On March 20, 2005, when Joyce was ordained a Deacon, her mother was there to witness the ordination. **To God Be the Glory!!!**

She was an early retiree with over 20 years' experience as a Telecommunication Manager at Verizon. Joyce worked for the telephone company for 26 years (3/8/1968 – 6/1994). She was a member of the Minority Management Association and the Association of BellTel Retirees, Inc. In recognition of retirement from active service in the telephone industry and dedication to the principles of fellowship, loyalty and service - Joyce was a lifetime member of the Telephone Pioneers of America.

After not being able to sit still, Joyce worked for a temporary agency before being hired at the Reader's Digest Association as the Video Conference Coordinator in 1997. Joyce led "Faith in Action" prayer and bible study group at Reader's Digest and was a member of the Toastmaster's International – Reader's Digest



Toastmasters Club #3605, Division G, Area 71. She held offices from Sergeant- at – Arms to President. She retired a second time in 2009.

Joyce was a member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the Coalition for the Empowerment of People of African Ancestry and the Literacy Volunteers of America.

In 2013, Joyce started working with Shiloh Baptist Church in a temporary assignment. That assignment turned into a 13-year journey. Prior to her passing she was the Executive Assistant to the Pastor and helped many of their members with technology and other gifts.

On September 1, 1974, Joyce married William E. Kelly and to that union one son Christopher LeBron Kelly was born. He lovingly called her “JOY” which he said meant “Jesus, Others, You”. Joyce helped to raise two daughters, DeJuan and Chandra Kelly.

On May 25, 1985, she met the love of her life in the person of Rev. Louis Waddell, Sr. For twenty-one years until his death (7/1/2006) they were “inseparable”. Joyce gained two loving and caring sons, Louis Jr. (Sherry) and Larry (Victoria) Waddell.

Joyce preferred working quietly in the background and was always willing and able to do whatever was required of her. Her faith was firmly grounded in Jesus and the text – Philippians 4:13 which states, “I can do all things through Christ which strengthens me.”

Joyce’s parents James and Martha Jane McNair, the love of her life Louis Waddell, Sr. and her son Christopher L. Kelly all preceded her in death. She leaves to cherish her memory her daughters DeJuan Watkins and Chandra Shaw and sons Louis Waddell, Jr. and Larry Waddell; 11 grandchildren; three great grandchildren; her sisters, Jeannette McNair (Mount Vernon, N.Y.) and

Delories Strickland (Fort Washington, Md.); nephews Lowes (Patrice) Moore; Douglas (Gwen) Moore; Curtis (Carla) Moore; Shawn Blake and nieces Angela Basnight and Tracey (Randall) George; her faithful longtime “sister friends” Crystal Noakes, Doris Wilson, Juana Johnson, Emma Jackson (cousin) and Wanda Peters. Additionally, she leaves behind a cherished circle of childhood friends and travel buddies, affectionately known as “The Four Tops” – Geraldine, Brenda, Bea and Joyce.; many great and great-great-nieces and nephews, cousins; the Grace Baptist and Shiloh Baptist Church Families and many more friends.



Romans 5:14 – “I myself am convinced, my brothers and sisters, that you yourselves are full of goodness, complete in knowledge and competent to instruct one another.”

While we may be flawed and imperfect, Paul reminds us of how important, competent and useful we can be to each other. While our hope is in God, He has given us each other in our walk of faith. Let’s not live as isolated islands of faith but continue to lean on each other and learn from each other as we look to Christ for our salvation and strength.

Let us pray together as Deacon Joyce prayed:
Thank you Lord, for placing the people in my life who have shaped, taught, corrected, and supported me in my life with YOU. I am thankful for your support of me through your words, example and touch. Thank you for giving me family and friends to travel with on my journey from home back to YOU. In the name of Jesus, I pray. AMEN

Sleep well Deacon Joyce.

How Precious the Death of His Saints

(From Psalm 116:15)

How precious to God is the death of His saints,
When the time of their lives they depart,
And lay down their lives as they follow His son
To the abode which came from God's heart.

The toils and trials of life put away,
Like a well marked page in a book,
Enfolded with care and a thanksgiving prayer,
For the pathway of Christ that they took.

God requires that His child, a work worn soul
Leave the useless body behind,
And in the last act of faith of departing this life
Arise with pure spirit and mind.

United she will be through all eternity
with God in three person and saints gone before
who will praise and rejoice up above.

(From Romans 8:28)

That all things work together
For the good to those who love God,
To those who have been called
According to his purpose.

Acknowledgement

With grateful hearts, the family wishes to thank each of you for every act of kindness, floral tributes, prayers, calls, texts, cards and all other various expressions of sympathy shown during the passing of our beloved Joyce Kelly. May the Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

In honor of Deacon Joyce McNair Kelly, the family encourages you to make a donation to the American Cancer Society.

Services Entrusted to:

Granby Funeral Services
4021 White Plains Road
Bronx, N.Y. 10466
(718) 519-6047

Committal Service:

Kensico Cemetery
Valhalla, N.Y.

