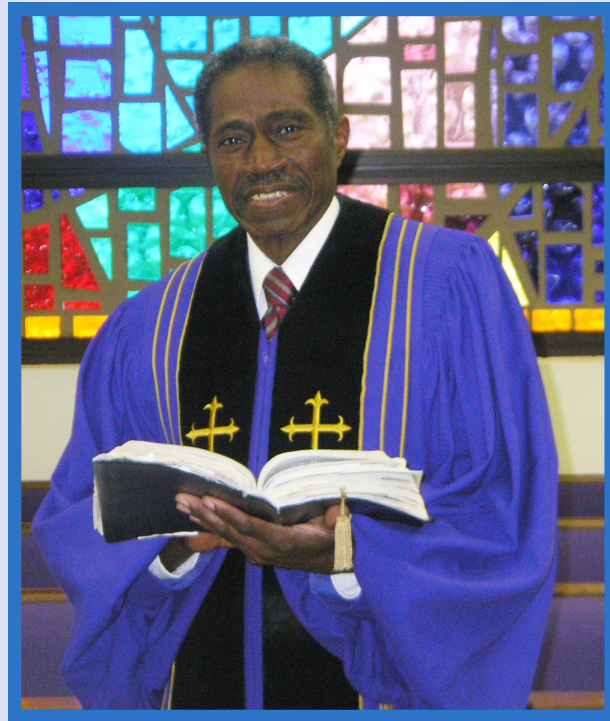


Celebrating the Life & Legacy of  
**PASTOR WILLIE JAMES FORD, SR.**



Sunrise

***August 30, 1938***

Sunset

***March 2, 2018***

Friday, March 16, 2018  
& Saturday, March 17, 2018

**Bethlehem Missionary Baptist Church**  
1060 S. Martin Luther King, Jr. Avenue  
Deerfield Beach, FL 33441

Rev. Demetric R. Ford, Senior Pastor/Teacher

# The Life of Reverend

Willie James Ford, Sr. was born to the parentage of the late Louches Ford and Leona Brown Ford on August 30, 1938 in Ellaville, Georgia (Schley County).

Willie James attended Braithewaite Elementary School in Deerfield Beach, Florida and Blanche Ely High School in Pompano Beach, Florida. He later started his own business, Ford's Radio & TV Service. He also served as a Boy Scouts of America Scout Master in Deerfield Beach, Florida.

In 1952, Willie James joined First Zion Missionary Baptist Church of Deerfield Beach, Florida and was baptized by the late Reverend F. D. Kitchen. In 1961, Willie James united with Bethlehem Missionary Baptist Church under the leadership of Reverend V. L. McCutcheon.

While in high school, Willie James met Rhunette Andrews. On June 11, 1959, Willie James and Rhunette were married. To this union 13 beautiful children were born.

Willie James preached his trial sermon and was ordained as a preacher in 1966. In January 1970, Reverend W. J. Ford served as interim pastor of Bethlehem Missionary Baptist Church of Deerfield Beach, Florida. In December of 1970, Bethlehem Missionary Baptist Church called Reverend W. J. Ford to serve as their pastor.

Reverend W. J. Ford pastored Bethlehem Missionary Baptist Church from January 1971 until January 2015, (plus one year as interim pastor in 1970) a total of 45 years.

Reverend W. J. Ford graduated from the following educational institutions:

- Blanche Ely High School - Class of 1959
- National Radio Institute, Washington, District of Columbia - August 1962
- Radio Corporation of America Institute, New York, New York - February 1965
- Cleveland Institute of Electronics, Cleveland, Ohio - January 1971
- Brown Theological Seminary, West Palm Beach, Florida - February 1975
- Broward Community College, Ft. Lauderdale, Florida (North Campus - Pompano Beach) - July 1979

Reverend W. J. Ford attended the following educational institutions:

- Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton, Florida - 1980
- Bethune Cookman College, Daytona Beach, Florida - 1983

Reverend W. J. Ford held the following positions in the Florida East Coast Baptist Association:

Association Board Member, Congress Board Member, Association General Secretary, Congress Instructor, Union Instructor, Licensed Preachers Instructor, Association Vice Moderator, Parliamentarian, Constitution Committee Chairman.

On January 24, 2015, the S.W. 10th Street Linear Park in Deerfield Beach, Florida was renamed in honor of Pastor Willie James Ford, Sr. Two years later, on January 22, 2017, the Bethlehem Missionary Baptist Church Educational Building was renamed in honor of Reverend Willie James Ford, Sr.

Two siblings preceded Willie James in death, Donzie Roy Ford, Sr. and Cora Lee Ford.

# end W. J. Ford, Sr.

Willie James Ford, Sr. leaves to cherish his legacy...

His loving wife, Rhunette D. Ford of Deerfield Beach, FL

13 children: Wanda D. Ford McCaskill of Fort Lauderdale, FL; Pamela D. Ford of Dumfries, VA; LaNetra J. Ford (Eric) of Boynton Beach, FL; Christopher J. Ford (Terri) of Fort Worth, TX; Rowena M. Ford Daniels (Ronald) of Deerfield Beach, FL; Willie J. Ford, Jr. of Boynton Beach, FL; Terrance A. Ford (Sarai) of Garland, TX; Demetric R. Ford (LaTonya) of Greenacres, FL; Benjamin J. Ford (Kristie) of Coral Springs, FL; Dwayne Q. Ford (Lakessa) of Atlanta, GA; Danielle R. Ford of Dallas, TX; Nichole G. Ford Woodard (Joe) of Deltona, FL; and Tramaine A. Ford of Charlotte, NC

30 grandchildren [five great-grandchildren]: (*LaNetra*) Nigel E. Davis, Elgin E. Davis; (*Christopher*) Charleston J. Ford, Christina A. Ford, Cydney E. Ford; (*Rowena*) Ronald Daniels, Jr., Ryan M. Daniels; (*Willie, Jr.*) Meghan D. Ford; (*Terrance*) Britne C. Ford [Jaeden], Audrey R. Ford [Arianna], Taylore A. Ford, Brittani P. Bailey [Bakari, Zion], Myesha N. Eavins, Samuel R. Eavins; (*Demetric*) Imani J. Ford, Nia A. Ford, Bakari U. Ford; (*Benjamin*) Adiah J. Ford, Zuri N. Ford; (*Dwayne*), Keon Q. Ford, Jalam D. Ford, Jayden N. Ford, Dekiyah N. Ford, Dwayne Q. Ford, Jr, Ashanti O. White-Ford [Alyra], Ashonti A. White-Ford; (*Nichole*) Jurnee K.C. Woodard, Jeida A. Woodard, Jabari N. Woodard, Jathan G. Woodard

Three sisters: Diane V. Ford of Tamarac, FL; Charlotte Smith of Ft. Lauderdale, FL; and Geraldine McMillan (Linzel) of Ft. Lauderdale, FL

One brother: Lucious Ford, Jr. (Ina) of Ft. Lauderdale, FL

One special sister-in-law: Mabel Sherrod of Deerfield Beach, FL

Two sisters-in-law: Lizzie Pearl Loving of Ottawa, KS; Ina Ford of Ft. Lauderdale, FL

Two special nieces: (*Donzie Roy*) Beverly Ford Williams (*Willie*) of Pompano Beach, FL and (*Cora Lee*) Linda Young (Felix) of Deerfield Beach, FL

Seven nieces: (*Donzie Roy*) Shela Ford Frazier of Houston, TX, Tangela Ford Cox of Colorado Springs, CO, Linda Ford; (*Diane*) Conswellow Mack Worthy of Tamarac, FL; (*Lucious*) Shawanni Mobley of Ft. Lauderdale, FL, Lucianna Wallace of Margate, FL and Victoria Leath of Ft. Lauderdale, FL

14 nephews: (*Donzie Roy*) Leroy Ford of Fort Pierce, FL, Donzie Roy Ford, Jr. of Denver, CO, Daniel Ford of Atlanta, GA, Dallas Ford of Miami, FL; (*Cora Lee*) Rex Ford of Deerfield Beach, FL, Joseph Ford of Pompano Beach, FL, Jimmie Sutton of Deerfield Beach, FL; (*Diane*) Ricky Ellison, Jr., Duayne Ellison, Antonio Ellison and Camrone Ellison, all of Tamarac, FL; (*Lucious*) Lucious Ford, III of Davie, FL; (*Mabel*) Dietrick Williams of Atlanta, GA, and Micah Williams of Orlando, FL

Three Godly children: Lincoln McThay III; Zoe Wyche and Zorn Wyche

The entire Bethlehem Missionary Baptist Church family and a host of extended nieces, nephews, cousins and other loving relatives and friends.



## TRIBUTE TO MY HUSBAND

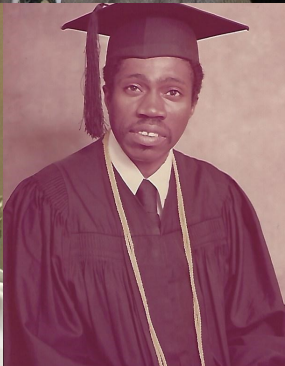
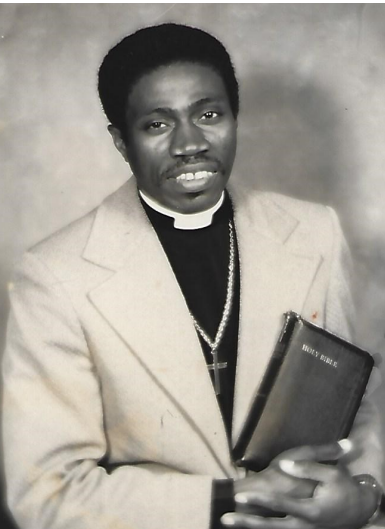
Sometimes I just sit quietly  
Reflecting for a while  
Imagining your voice, your face  
Your warm and loving smile

For it's so lovely to recall  
The happy times we had  
When you played such a special role  
As both Husband and Dad

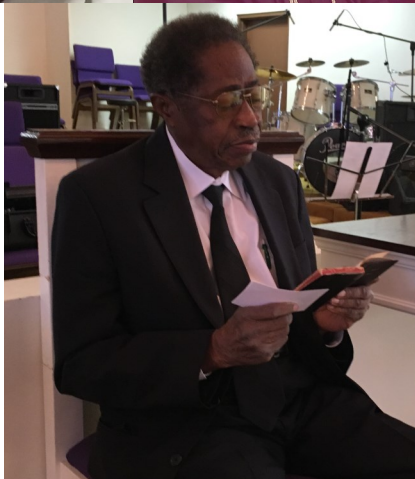
And at this very special time  
I only wish you knew  
That I'd give all the world today  
For a little more time with you

But I still have my memories  
And since we've been apart  
It comforts me so much to know  
That you're right here in my heart  
-author unknown

...As for me  
and my house,  
we will serve  
the Lord.  
Joshua 24:15



I have fought a good fight, I  
have finished my course, I  
have kept the faith: Hence-  
forth there is laid up for me  
a crown of righteousness,  
which the Lord, the right-  
eous judge, shall give me at  
that day: and not to me on-  
ly, but unto all them also  
that love his appearing.  
2 Timothy 4:7-8



# A Family That Prays Together Stays Together



## TRIBUTE TO OUR DAD AND GRANDDAD

Our Hero  
You held our hand  
When we were small  
You caught us when we fell  
You're the hero of our childhood  
And our later years as well

And every time we think of you  
Our heart still fills with pride  
Though we'll always miss you Dad  
We know you're by our side

In laughter and in sorrow  
In sunshine and through rain  
We know you're watching over us  
Until we meet again

-author unknown



# Wake Service

Bethlehem Missionary Baptist Church Chapel  
1055 SW 2nd Avenue | Deerfield Beach, FL 33441

Friday, March 16, 2018 | 6:00 PM

Rev. Terrance A. Ford - Presiding

Processional..... with singing by the Bethlehem Choir

Invocation .....Minister

Scripture Readings

Old Testament..... Minister

New Testament ..... Minister

Song..... Bethlehem Choir

Acknowledgements ..... Rahming-Poitier Funeral Home Staff

Resolution ..... Bethlehem Church Clerk

Instrumental Music ..... Saxophonist | Markus Howell

*(Please take this time to silently read the obituary of Rev. W. J. Ford, Sr.)*

Song..... Bethlehem Choir

Eulogy & Sermon..... Rev. Demetric R. Ford

Final Glance

# Celebration of Life & Legacy Service

Bethlehem Missionary Baptist Church Sanctuary  
1060 S. MLK, Jr. Avenue | Deerfield Beach, FL 33441

Saturday, March 17, 2018 | 11:00 AM

Rev. Demetric R. Ford - Presiding

Processional .....with singing by the BMBC Praise Singers  
Songs of Praise & Worship ..... BMBC Praise Singers  
Invocation ..... Minister

## Reflections

City of Deerfield Beach | Mayor Bill Gantz  
Blanche Ely High School - Class of 1959 | Rev. Robert Bailey  
Local Community & Clergy | Rev. Dr. Nathaniel B. Knowles  
International Eben-Ezer Baptist Church | Rev. Juslin Alfred  
Florida East Coast Baptist Association | Moderator Rev. Johnny L. Barber, II  
Preaching Sons of Bethlehem | Rev. Toby T. Philpart

## Grandchildren's Tribute

Instrumental Music..... Saxophonist — Markus Howell  
*(Please take this time to silently read the obituary of Rev. W. J. Ford, Sr.)*

Songs ..... Bethlehem Choir

Sermon..... Rev. Terrance A. Ford

Invitation to Christian Discipleship

Benediction

## **Pallbearers**

Christopher J. Ford    Terrance A. Ford    Benjamin J. Ford  
Willie J. Ford, Jr.    Demetric R. Ford    Dwayne Q. Ford

## **Honorary Pallbearers**

Preaching Sons of Bethlehem

## **Flower Attendants**

Bethlehem Missionary Baptist Church Usher Board

## **Acknowledgements and Sincere Gratitude**

The family wishes to acknowledge with deep appreciation the many expressions of love, concern and kindness shown to them during this hour of bereavement. Your cards, flowers and donations are gratefully appreciated and will be individually recognized at a later date. Our Prayer is for God's Bountiful Blessings to rest upon each of you and His Power to sustain you in your journey ahead.

Rhunette D. Ford and Family

## **Interment**

Saturday, March 17, 2018 | 10:00 AM  
Pineview Cemetery, Deerfield Beach, FL

## **Repast**

Saturday, March 17, 2018  
Bethlehem Missionary Baptist Church  
Rev. Willie James Ford, Sr. Educational Building

## **Funeral Arrangements Entrusted to**

Rahming – Poitier Funeral Home  
379 S Dixie Hwy  
Deerfield Beach, FL 33441

Sign the digital guestbook at [\*\*bmbchurch.org/guestbook\*\*](http://bmbchurch.org/guestbook)