



## Minister Barbara A. Gerald-Gatling

February 4, 2023

Minister Barbara Ann Gerald-Gatling departed this life to join the Angelic Choir in her heavenly home on February 4, 2023. She was born in Wilson, North Carolina to the late Robert Edgar Gerald, Sr. and Rebecca Williams Gerald. Barbara was also predeceased by her two siblings, Carlotta Bernice Gerald Cromwell and Robert Edgar Gerald, Jr.

At an early age, the family moved to Portsmouth, VA, where she was a lifetime resident and graduated from Our Lady of Victory High School. She received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Vocal Music Education from Virginia State College (University) of Petersburg, VA., a Master of Arts Degree in Secondary Guidance and Counseling from Hampton Institute (University) of Hampton, VA., and a Master of Divinity from the Samuel D. Witt School of Theology at Virginia Union University of Richmond, VA. She did further studies at Norfolk State University, Old Dominion University, Virginia Wesleyan University, University of Virginia, James Madison University, and New York University. She spent 34 years in public education and worked in Dover, Delaware as well as the cities of Suffolk, Virginia Beach, and Chesapeake, Virginia. The lives of many students were touched by her leadership and guidance as a Choral and Vocal Music Specialist, Choral Directress, English Instructor, and Guidance Counselor. In 1995, she retired as a Guidance Counselor from Southwestern Elementary School in Chesapeake, VA. Her professional affiliations include membership in the National, State, and Virginia Beach Education Associations, Virginia Counselor's Association, National and State

Personnel and Guidance Associations, and American School Counselor Association.

Minister Gatling began playing the piano at the age of six years old, and her family encouraged her to share her musical talent. She served as the organist for several churches including St. Thomas Baptist Church and Union Bethel Baptist in Portsmouth, VA., Men's Chorus at First Baptist Church Mahan in Suffolk, VA, and St. Mark Episcopal Church in Suffolk, VA.

She was a member of Ebenezer Baptist Church for 60 years, where she sang in the Young Adult, Chancel, and Senior Choirs. She served as Former Assistant Minister of Music and Founder and Directress of the Angelic Choir, where she was the first to compose an album entitled "To God Be the Glory." Minister Gatling served on the Board of Christian Education for two terms, taught Sunday School, served as Chairperson of the Pastoral Search Committee, and served as secretary on the Internal Improvement Building Committee at Ebenezer. She sang in the I. Sherman Greene Chorale and the Chesapeake Civic Chorus. She was the Founder and Directress of the Barbara A. Gatling Choral Ensemble.

Her faith in the Lord was as powerful as her desire to share her musical talent of praise. She enriched her area of ministry by obtaining a Master of Divinity Degree from Samuel D. Witt School of Theology at Virginia Union. Her Initiation to the Gospel Ministry was achieved on March 25, 2012, at St. Mark Missionary Baptist Church under the esteem leadership of Bishop Curtis E. Edmonds, Sr. She remained a member of St. Mark until her demise. In October 2021, Minister Gatling moved to Greensboro, NC to be closer to her son and grandchildren and she faithfully attended Providence Baptist Church of Greensboro.

Minister Gatling is Golden Life member of the Portsmouth Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. where she served as Project Chairperson for a couple of years. She was also a member of the Chesapeake's Chapter of Jack and Jill of America, Inc., the NAACP, the Cedar Grove Civic League, and served as a campaign worker for Voter Registration in Chesapeake, VA.

On June 18, 1960, Barbara and LaDaniel Gatling were united in marriage and to this union was born one son, LaDaniel Gatling, II. Left to cherish the sweet memories of her life are her special heartbeats of love: her devoted son, LaDaniel Gatling, II and his wife, Kimberly Revita Bullock Gatling, and her three grandsons: LaDaniel III ("LA"), Carl Fletcher, and Jordan Dancy, all of Greensboro, NC. She will also be sorely missed by a host of other relatives and friends.

# Cemetery Details

## Greenlawn Memorial Gardens

3920 Airline Blvd  
Chesapeake, VA

# Previous Events

## Service

FEB 11. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Mark Missionary Baptist Church  
Portsmouth, VA 23702  
2714 frederick boulevard

# Tribute Wall

FT

“ *Barbara Gatling was one of the kindest people that I have ever known. Her warm smile and kind words will be sorely missed.* 🌹

Frank T.Elliott - February 14, 2023 at 12:26 AM

RH

“ *Rhoda Harris lit a candle in memory of Minister Barbara A. Gerald-Gatling*



Rhoda Harris - February 12, 2023 at 06:07 AM

OJ

“ *Aunt Barbara this is your other niece .. I can hardly believe that I am talking to you in these memeory comments instead of on the phone .. I am sorry that you had to leave me but I'm sure that GOD needed another minister and angelic voice in His land of milk and honey .. I will always love and cherish our times when we connected and shared together ..I will forever love❤️ you and look forward to seeing you again along with all our family who you have joined now who have gone before us .. Enjoy GOD aunt Barbara He will give you perfect rest and peace ..* 🌹🌹🌹🌹🌹🌹🌹🌹🌹🌹🌹  
Olliette

Olliette Joyner - February 11, 2023 at 01:22 AM

OJ

“ Olliette Joyner lit a candle in memory of Minister Barbara A. Gerald-Gatling



Olliette Joyner - February 11, 2023 at 01:07 AM

AM

“ My friendship with Barbara began at Virginia State College (University) where we both were seeking a degree in Vocal Music Education. Our friendship continued through the years. Although we were in different states, we continued to keep in touch to the end. I will miss our conversations, but happy to know that she is now at peace, I express my deepest sympathy to the family.



Audrey Miller-Sydney - February 10, 2023 at 11:34 PM

AJ

“ On behalf of my mother Marie Johnson, whom was a good friend to your mother. Anthony Johnson the son and cousin to your late father will be praying for you and the family.

Anthony Johnson - February 10, 2023 at 08:00 PM

DW

“ Dorene Williams lit a candle in memory of Minister Barbara A. Gerald-Gatling



Dorene Williams - February 10, 2023 at 03:21 PM

SH

“ *Danny, our family extends our love and prayers to you and your family. Always loved your mom's smile. Sonya Hopson, Cynthia Hopson, Monica Hopson-Goode*

-----  
**Sonya Hopson** - February 10, 2023 at 09:49 AM

WR

“ *Walter Ratcliffe lit a candle in memory of Minister Barbara A. Gerald-Gatling*



-----  
**Walter Ratcliffe** - February 10, 2023 at 01:15 AM



“ *Barbara and I became friends on our STVU trip to Ghana. She was such a bright and encouraging Sister. I know you have a front row seat in the Heavenly Choir. Peace!! Rev Jim Harden*

-----  
**Jim Harden** - February 09, 2023 at 11:43 AM

DP

“ Earth has no sorrow that heaven can not heal (Isaiah 35:10).  
Barbara Ann (as I affectionately called my aunt), you will be missed by soo many. It's hard to believe that I can't call you anymore and say, "Barbara Ann" and hear you chuckle and smile through the phone and say, "Yes ma'am". That was our banter. This has left a true void in my heart but I know that God makes no mistakes. The blessing is that the word of God assures me that "To be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord". So, I know in my heart that this isn't goodbye but just I'll see you on the other side. I love you Danny more than you could possibly understand and I'm always here for you.

*Donna Powell  
Barbara Gatling's Great-niece*

---

**Donna Powell** - February 08, 2023 at 08:39 PM

AJ

“ anthony johnson lit a candle in memory of  
Minister Barbara A. Gerald-Gatling



---

**anthony lee johnson** - February 08, 2023 at 04:51 PM

FS

“ Mrs. Gatling fell in love with my fruitcake. She called me last week to tell that she had shared with her beautician. We laughed about it. That is what I will most remember, her laughter.

---

**Felicia Scales** - February 07, 2023 at 07:19 PM

CB

“ *Carrie Baker lit a candle in memory of Barbara A. Gerald-Gatling*



Carrie Baker - February 07, 2023 at 06:35 PM

BW

“ *Aunt Barbara I feel like this is a horrible dream, because we were just laughing and reminiscing last week, but I also know that God make NO mistakes. I'm truly going to miss our weekly talks. My love for you will never vanish, and I'll see you on the other side. Lord this is so uncomfortable!!!!* 🙏💔💔💔🙏🌹

Beverly Gerald Ward - February 07, 2023 at 05:31 PM

LD

“ *My condolences to the Family. She was loved and will be missed. I remember the days of singing under her direction in the Angelic Choir at Ebenezer Baptist Church, Portsmouth, VA. She was excellent with that choir and with the music. I will never forget the good of day. Blessings*



Linda J. Davis - February 07, 2023 at 01:47 PM