

# OBITUARY

## Russell

**Funeral Home**  
822 Carl Russell Ave.  
722-3459

**RUSSELL**

Mrs. Florrie Marlene Sitgraves Russell, wife of the late Carl H. Russell Sr. and owner of Russell Funeral Home Inc., of 2200 E. 23rd St. in Winston-Salem, passed away peacefully Saturday, June 7, at Forsyth Memorial Hospital, following a brief illness.

Mrs. Russell was a native of Rock Hill, S.C., born to Labon and Lillie Jordan. She was a graduate of Winston-Salem Teachers College. She taught in Troy, N.C., at Peabody Academy, at Old Carver and retired from the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County school system in the continuing education program and was a licensed funeral director. Mrs. Russell was a faithful member of St. James AME Church, where she was a member of the Inspirational Choir, the Trustee Board, and the Lay Organization. In the community, she was a member of the National Women of Achievement, the YADNOM Pinocle Club, the Fantastic Four Team of the High Hopes Bowling League, the Bowen Park Cooperative Community Club, and was one of the founders of the Combined Community Club. "Big Mama," as she was affectionately known to family, is survived by six daughters, Charlene R. Brown, Constance R. Russell, Cynthia R. (William) Bruton, and Carmen R. (Jimmie) Bonham, all of Winston-Salem, Carolyn R. Webster, of Silver Spring, Md., and Camille R. Love, of Atlanta; five sons, Edward B. (Bobbie) Russell, Carl H. (Gail) Russell Jr., Christopher W. (Sylvia Webster) Russell Sr., Cedric Labon (Lita) Russell, and Keith R. Bowman, all of Winston-Salem; and a host of loving grandchildren and great grandchildren; four sisters, Rita S. Foote, of Winston-Salem, Lucy S. Clemmons, of Rock Hill, S.C., Mary S. Johnson and Helen S. Lathan, both of Durham, N.C.; one brother, Thomas (Mattie) Sitgraves, of Rock

Hill; two brothers-in-law, John W. Manning, of Winston-Salem, and William (Yvonne) Woodruff, of Pittsburg, Pa.; the devoted staff of the Russell Funeral Home; and a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives and many, many devoted and caring friends.

Funeral services were held June 11 at St. James AME Church, with the Rev. Philip R. Cousin Jr. officiating. Interment followed at the family plot of Evergreen Cemetery. Russell Funeral Directors and Twin City Funeral Directors were in charge of arrangements.



**PIERSON**

Mrs. Doris Elizabeth Poag Pierson, of Oak Summit Nursing Home in Winston-Salem, died June 5.

She was born May 2, 1926, to Thomas and Molly Poag. She was educated in the public schools of Forsyth County and attended Fisk University in Nashville, Tenn. She relocated to Atlanta and was united in marriage to James T. Anderson, and to this union was born one daughter, Marcia Elizabeth. She was employed with the Housing Authority of Atlanta, before returning to Winston-Salem to care for her mother. She was employed at the Career Center of Winston-Salem Forsyth County Schools until her retirement. She was a member of First Baptist Church and was a member of the Home and Foreign Missionary Circle, and the Women's Progressive Club.

She was preceded in death by her husband in 1981. She leaves to cherish her memory, one daughter, Marchia (Robert) Gary-Hancock, of Winston-Salem; one grandson, Allen A. Gary, of Mt. Airy, N.C.; two uncles, George (Margaret) Allen, of Winston-

Salem, and Edward Poag, of Gastonia, N.C.; one aunt, Mabel Allen, of Winston-Salem; two great granddaughters; and a host of other relatives and friends.

Memorial services were held June 7, at First Baptist Church, with the Rev. Gloria Gerald officiating. Hooper Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

**LINDSAY**

Mrs. Claudette Olivia Penn Lindsay, of 901 Moravia St. in Winston-Salem, died June 4.

She was born Nov. 4, 1938, to James Willie Penn and Edna Dunlap Penn. She was a 1958 graduate of Atkins High School and was employed at R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company for 25 years. She was a member of United Metropolitan Missionary Baptist Church, where she was affiliated with the Hospitality Club. She was a member of Bellview Community Club and a member of the Temple 1862

Daughters I.B.P.O.E. of W. She was also a supporter of First Wauhtown Baptist Church.

She leaves to cherish her memories two sons, Steve and Brian Lindsay, of the home; two daughters, Eulayne Lindsay and Sabrina George, both of Winston-Salem; her father, James Willie Penn Sr., of Winston-Salem; three grandchildren, Yuneke and Tony Lindsay and Bryant George Jr., all of Winston-Salem; seven brothers, James W. (Ruth) Penn Jr., of Atlanta Beach, Fla., Dedric Penn, Fred Penn, Greg (Lisa) Penn and Charles Brown, all of Winston-Salem, Barry (Dell) Penn, of Defiano, Ohio, and Walter (Tanya) Penn of Norfolk, Va.; six sisters, Juanita B. Penn, Shirley Penn, Julie Penn, and Shirley Jackson all of Winston-Salem, Blondell Penn, of Detroit, Mich., and Patricia (William) Kirkland, of Vacaville, Calif.; one godson, Wayne (Millicent) Smith, of Orlando, Fla.; three aunts, Annie Dunlap Barber, Shirley (Marvin) Dunlap, and Jane Williams, all of Winston-Salem; and a host of other relatives and friends.

Funeral services were held June 9 at United Metropolitan Missionary Baptist Church, with Dr. J.D. Ballard officiating. Inhumation followed at the Evergreen Cemetery. Hooper Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

# Triad mourns loss of Florrie Marlene Sitgraves Russell

By FELECIA P. MCMILLAN  
Special to THE CHRONICLE

Mrs. Florrie Marlene Sitgraves Russell was affectionately known to her children as "Big Mama" and to many of her friends as "Flo." Two of her neighbors, Alice Reynolds and Elizabeth Wright, who were members of the same community club with her for more than 40 years, remember her as a kind and caring friend of the community.

Elizabeth Wright, president of the Bowen Park Cooperative Community club, lived directly behind Mrs. Russell for many years. They were neighbors even before there were streets in Bowen Park, only paths that led through the woods. Wright remembered how she would often see "Flo" coming through the woods with a child in one arm, holding another by the hand. They were going in search of



Florrie Russell

Alice Reynolds lived two doors down from Mrs. Russell for more than 40 years, and she often babysat for Camille. Reynolds will never forget how "Flo" would double over with laughter when Reynolds and the Russell children cheered for the Dodgers. "The kids and I were big Dodger fans," said Reynolds, "and you would have thought that we were at Ebbets Field when Roy Capanella, Jackie Robinson or Willie Mays hit a home run." Reynolds would "light out" from

her son Cedric, whom Wright calls "The Nature Boy" because he loved to go down by the creek and play.

her house and burst into the living room making a complete circle through the dining room, yelling and rejoicing with the kids. "Flo didn't mind. She knew we were having fun," Reynolds said.

Although Florrie Russell loved for her children to have fun, they knew when she meant business. She never had to raise her voice to reach her children, according to Charlene. "All my momma had to do was look at us, and we knew that we had better straighten up," she said. She remembers having to go out into the yard to "pick [her] own switch" if she or her brothers and sisters ever misbehaved. "Mama didn't play," she said.

Mrs. Russell and her husband, the late Carl H. Russell Sr., raised 11 children.

"Although she raised 11 children of her own," said Charlene R.

Brown, the oldest child, "she helped to raise so many others in the community." Mrs. Russell taught home economics in the first continuing education program for young expectant mothers. A graduate of Winston-Salem Teacher's College, she began teaching in Troy, N.C., at Peabody Academy. She also taught at Old Carver, which was in the same location as the current bus garage on Carver School Road. As licensed funeral directors, she and her husband, with their family, have been in business for more than 55 years.

According to Charlene, her mother loved to sing in the Inspirational Choir at the St. James AME Church. "She had a lovely soprano voice, and if she possibly could, she always made it to choir rehearsal," Charlene said.

Mother's Day was a special treat

this year for the Russell Family. The children met at Charlene's house and had a warm and exciting time together. They also had a surprise birthday party for their mother this year, but none of them are sure of their mother's age. If she were ever asked about her age, Mrs. Russell would respond "Old enough to have sense enough not to answer that question," and they would laugh. Charlene is glad that they took her mother to see her four sisters recently.

"My momma was the best," Charlene said. "The Lord did not let her suffer. She slept away very peacefully and I am grateful for that," Charlene said. "My mother was always giving. Even from her hospital bed, she was sending my sister Carolyn on errands for people she often helped," she said. Charlene said she could sense that

her mother was "holding on" for the sake of her children. We had to set her at ease by saying, "Okay, Big Mama. You can go. We're all going to be okay."

"She is now with my father and at peace," she said.

## RELIGION CALENDAR

### Friendship Baptist to observe Father's Day, learn from life of Frederick Douglas

SUNDAY JUNE 15

**Friendship Father's Day**

Father's Day will be observed June 15 at Friendship Baptist Church, W. 13th Street in Winston-Salem. The Rev. S.E. Tyndal is pastor of the church. Guest speaker will be Dr. Rayford J. Thompson. He will present excerpts from the life and contributions of Frederick Douglas.

**1st Calvary Father's Day**

First Calvary Baptist Church will celebrate Father's Day with a special Father's Day Program June 15 at 4 p.m. The Rev. Billy Ray Smith and his congregation of Rock Hill Baptist Church, from Belevs Creek, N.C., will be the guests.

**MWMW Meeting**

The Interdenominational Minister's Wives and Ministers' Widows of Winston-Salem will

host the State meeting of MWMW June 15-17. The Holiday Inn North is the headquarter hotel. Registration begins Sunday at 4 p.m.; welcome reception and state choir rehearsal are scheduled for Sunday evening. The formal opening for the state meeting is Monday morning at Holiday Inn North. Registered attendees will be in classes Monday and Tuesday. A banquet is scheduled for Monday, 7 p.m. at which time the State queen will be crowned and a mini concert will be rendered by the Damon Family. The commencement service will be held on Tuesday morning with Dr. Janice Kennedy-Sloan as the speaker. Ministers' wives and widows of Winston-Salem and vicinity are invited to attend the State meeting. Doris Blackwell leads the state organization as president. Call 761-8168 for further information.

**St. James Father's Day**

Ronald Hughes will be the 11 a.m. Father's Day speaker at St. James AME Church June 15. Hughes is the minister of music at

the local church. The "Voices of Praise Choir," under the direction of Terry Kelly, will provide the music. The public is cordially invited.

MONDAY JUNE 16

**Wauhtown Baptist VBS**

First Wauhtown Baptist Church, 8838 Moravia St., will conduct vacation Bible school June 16-20 from 6-8 p.m. There will be classes and activities for all ages — prekindergarten to adult. Persons needing transportation should call Mr. Billy Hawkins at 788-4502.

In addition to Bible instruction and craft sessions, refreshments will be served each night. The

schedule of events also includes a special guest storyteller on Monday night and the Coca-Cola Cool Out van and a play, "Second Chance," performed by the Nu Tau Zeta Chapter Archonettes of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Inc. on Friday evening.

**Ephesus VBS**

The Ephesus Seventh-Day Adventist Church will hold its vacation Bible school June 16 through 20 from 9 a.m. until noon. Register your child now at 1225 N. Cleveland Ave. Program designed for ages 5 to 15.

They plan to accommodate a wide area of city. Those who will need transportation, please call (910) 724-0491.

SATURDAY JUNE 28

**Scholarship Dinner**

The St. Matthew Apostolic Church will hold their annual Kenneth Write Jr. Scholarship dinner June 28 at 6 p.m. at the Winston Lake Family YMCA. The speaker at this dinner will be Mary Ann Mason, who is principal in Richmond, Va. The scholarship dinner is a fundraising event for high school students in memory of Kenneth Wright Jr., a student who was hit and killed while crossing Carver School Road to catch the bus for school.

**Macedonia Holiness Church Of God Of The Apostolic Faith, Inc.**



Bishop K. L. Wise, Sr. D.D., S.T.D. - Pastor

**Sunday Services**  
Sunday School ..... 9:45 a.m.  
Morning Worship ..... 11:00 a.m.  
Radio Broadcast (WAAA 980) ... 2:00 p.m.  
M.Y.P.U. .... 6:30 p.m.  
Evangelistic ..... 7:30 p.m.  
**Wednesday Services**  
Prayer & Bible Study ..... 7:30 p.m.  
4111 Whitfield Drive \* Telephone: 767-3700



Rev. Wendell A. Johnson Telephone: 722-4883, 722-5005, FAX 722-6266

**First Baptist Church**

700 Highland Avenue

Sunday School ..... 9:30 a.m.  
Morning Worship ..... 8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.  
Nursery ..... 10:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

8:30 a.m. Service  
All are welcome to attend  
11:00 a.m. Service  
Join us and bring a friend

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**afterloss**

Questions & Answers on recovering from grief \*

Questions asked during bereavement counseling are answered by the editor of Afterloss, the grief-recovery letter.

Q. When someone you love dies, it seems that you will never be happy again. Is this so?

A. There is an adjustment phase to every major change in our lives. The return to a joyful existence can certainly be attained. Some achieve this happiness sooner than others and for a variety of reasons. These include (but are not limited to): (1) a willingness to take the steps required to work through your grief (2) your own personality structure (3) your tenacity and (4) the new opportunities that may subsequently emerge.

\* For a free copy of Afterloss or the

