

Pallbearers
Deacons

Honorary Pallbearers
Paris G. Vardakas
Christopher J. Dela Rosa
William Jackson Ford

Floral Bearers
Deaconess

Honorary Floral Bearers
Cheyenne Pinkston-Ford
Ayanna Pinkston-Ford



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Our family wishes to express our deepest gratitude and sincere thanks, for all the many expressions of love, for each act of kindness, thoughtfulness, and prayer during this time of bereavement.

We are especially grateful to the dedicated staff of Brighton Gardens who provided her with comfort and care for the latter months of her life; and to the doctors and nurses of Wake Forest Baptist Health, who diligently supported her fight against a host of chronic illnesses.

May God Bless You.



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*Homegoing Celebration
In Loving Memory
of
Mrs. Martha Jean Ford*



Sunrise: December 6, 1938 Sunset: September 17, 2019

September 22, 2019

3:00 PM

*First Baptist Church
700 North Highland Avenue
Winston-Salem, NC 27101*

*Rev. Paul Robeson Ford
Senior Pastor, First Baptist Church*

Obituary

Martha Jean Ford began her life's journey on December 6, 1938 in Columbus, Ohio. She was the second of three children born to Carl Vernon Teeters and Edith Virginia (Evans). She embraced the Christian faith at an early age, attending St. John's Evangelical Protestant Church (UCC) on Mound Street (Columbus). She completed her undergraduate degree at Ohio University (Athens, Ohio), and earned a total of three Master's degrees from Eden Theological Seminary (Webster Groves, Missouri), the City College of New York, and C.W. Post University (Long Island, New York). She spent thirty-five years as an elementary school teacher in the New York City Public School system, faithfully serving generations of children in grades 2 - 6. She also taught night school periodically, served as a school librarian, worked in social services at the Casita Maria Settlement House in East Harlem, and served briefly as Director of Christian Education at Pilgrim Congregational Church (UCC) in St. Louis, Missouri.

Marte was a devoted member of the Riverside Church in New York City for over forty years; she volunteered most recently in the English Conversation Program, working with immigrant and non-native speakers of English who were seeking to improve their language skills. She was a member of Sigma Kappa Sorority, an avid reader, and a long-time advocate for expanding literacy, especially among the predominately black and Latino students who she taught in New York. She was a card-carrying member of the United Federation of Teachers, and a strong supporter of organized labor. She loved traveling, lighthouses, whale watching, and she spent countless summers in Cape Cod with her family, teaching them to love it as well.

Her life was characterized by her generosity, courage to boldly transcend traditional boundaries of race and class at great personal cost, her commitment to marginalized communities, and her readiness for "every good work" when the opportunity arose. She made sacrifices for others without hesitation, and gave of herself without regret. She was civically engaged all of her life, and encouraged both of her children to be so as well. She was fiercely devoted to her family, supporting two generations with her time, talent, and treasure.

Marte's earthly journey came to its end in the early hours of Tuesday, September 17th, after having been surrounded by family and friends in the days prior. Among others, she was preceded in death by her parents and beloved younger brother, Robert Fenton Teeters. She leaves to mourn her loss, daughter Suz-Anna (Paris G.) Vardakas of New York, son Paul Robeson (Kirstin) of Winston-Salem, grandsons Christopher Dela Rosa and William Jackson, granddaughters in love, Cheyenne and Ayanna (Pinkston-Ford), elder brother Richard Teeters (London, Ohio), as well as a host of nephews, nieces, and other family and many close friends; gone but not forgotten.

The Order Of Service

Prelude	Dr. Marion "Pete" Thomas
Processional	
Opening Hymn	"Great Is Thy Faithfulness" Combined Choirs
Scriptures:	
Old Testament:	<i>Lamentations 3:19-26; 31-33</i> Deacon Velvet Simington
New Testament:	<i>Acts 9:36-43</i> Rev. Dr. Bill Leonard
Prayer of Consolation	Rev. Anne Jenkins
Tributes	Mrs. Judy Felder Mrs. Suz-Anna Vardakas Grandchildren
Acknowledgements	Rev. Glenn Pettiford
Selection	Mr. DeCarlos Davis
Eulogy	Rev. Paul Robeson Ford
Selection	"The Church's One Foundation" Combined Choirs
Recessional	