



Paula Blackman

February 3, 1949 - January 31, 2022

Paula Andrea is the name given to the first daughter of Victor Ovid Blackman and Lydia May Blackman when their beautiful baby girl was born on February 3rd, 1949 in Georgetown, Guyana. As Paula Andrea grew up, she was warned to set an example for her two younger sisters, Janis Marcia and Karen Eudora. Her mother's words were "You're the big one." But Paula never sought fame or fortune, those were added onto her as she sought first to pursue Christ and his goodness.

Baptized in the Methodist Church Paula, also attended Brethren church teenage programs. She lived her adult life a committed Methodist and served at The Kitty Methodist Church in Guyana. After migrating to the United States in 1989, Paula became an active member and leader at South Orange Vailsburg United Methodist Church in South Orange NJ, then at First United Methodist Church of Montclair and Verona. She recently began to attend Assurance United Methodist Church in Huntersille, NC and was considering membership there. Paula gave of her talents, heart and time to the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church in roles at the conference level as well as the local level, including serving on the Council on Finance & Administration, the Committee on Episcopacy, the Committee on District Superintendency, Personnel and others. She trained as a Lay Speaker and preached at several churches in the Greater New Jersey district.

People who knew Paula were not always aware how deeply she was immersed in faith pursuits. She met everyone with a smile, a listening ear, an effusion of warmth and inevitably some delightful cooking. If cooking was one of the gifts Paula shared so generously, her love of gardening brought her equal joy.

Paula was all heart. She never publicly brandished professional accomplishments. A graduate of The Bishops' High School in Georgetown, Guyana, her career started at Queens College, progressed to banking, then to approximately twenty-eight years at the United Nations Children's Fund in New York from which she retired as a Human Resources Specialist in 2012. She then provided consulting services at a multinational

Pharmaceutical Corporation in East Hanover, NJ.

Paula thoroughly enjoyed life in her home in West Orange NJ for about twenty-five years and continued to thrive similarly after moving to North Carolina two years ago. Within the restrictions of the pandemic, she joyfully embraced the extended planting season and the thrill of new varieties of plant, embraced family, new friends and re-connected with old ones in the Concord community where she lived.

Paula did not expect to die that night. She had plans, some silently hinted at by a telltale stack of baking pans on the kitchen counter. Her last day was filled with church, communion, family togetherness and fun. She was laughing and happy, anticipating her 73rd birthday. Paula's body died January 31, 2022 and was cremated February 9, 2022 to be buried February 12, 2022. It is the Spirit that gives life. Paula Andrea Blackman embraced eternal life standing on the promises of God in whom she unswervingly believed. She is survived by her sisters Janis (Aubrey) Medas and Karen Blackman Sinclair, nephews Dr. Ryan (Desiree) Medas and Rêné Medas (Stacy Chase), niece Rhea (Kristoff) James, great-niece Jady Medas, great-nephews Ryan Medas and Avon James and other family and friends. Rest in Peace, Paula. ♥

A Memorial service will be held Saturday 12th February at 12:30pm at the First United Methodist Church of Montclair and Verona, 24 N Fullerton Ave, Montclair, NJ 07042, thence to Rosedale Cemetery, 408 Orange Rd, Montclair, NJ 07042.

Memorial donations may be made to: First United Methodist Church of Montclair and Verona, 24 N Fullerton Ave, Montclair, NJ 07042 <https://www.firstmontclair.org/give.html> and Assurance United Methodist Church, 9700 Mount Holly Huntersville Rd Huntersville, NC 28078, <https://www.assuranceumc.org/give>.

Livestream service at Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/firstmontclair/>

YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCUR1bJEbBotXuG5T8QvwUKA>

James Funeral Home is assisting the family, online condolences at www.jamesfuneralhome.com.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

FEB 12 (ET)

First United Methodist Church of Montclair and Verona
24 N Fullerton Ave,
Montclair, NJ 07042,

Tribute Wall

KF

“ My dear aunt Ms Paula Blackman, you will be missed. You have touched so many lives in the time you have been on earth with us. A true inspiration of how we can all make a difference in someones life by showing kindness and Love. My mom”Evette” speaks very highly of you, and that it was you that named me Regan. A true angel of GOD doing Gods work. Forever Rest In Peace Angel Of God “Paula Andrea Blackman” Love you

kerwin Anthony and family - February 12 at 05:43 PM

NT

“ Nadeen Thomas lit a candle in memory of Paula Blackman



nadeen thomas - February 12 at 02:33 PM

CC

“ Cora Collier lit a candle in memory of Paula Blackman



Cora collier - February 12 at 11:23 AM

CR

“ Our Sincere Condolences to the entire family on the loss of Paula. It was a shock to hear of her passing. I am so very sorry and sad. May her soul rest in Eternal Peace and Rise in Glory.
Colin Robinson

Colin Robinson - February 12 at 10:00 AM

HE

“ So sleep now softly, angel, In your eternal rest.

Love always, Heather Jeffrey- Sealey

Heather - February 12 at 07:14 AM

HE

“ Auntie Paula, I truly got to know you during my stay in 2012. I remember so fondly the delicious soups you would make for me when I found it difficult to eat during my third trimester.

I loved the way you would express your joy about something by saying, "thank you, thank you, thank you!" or wonderful, wonderful, wonderful!" with the biggest and brightest smile on your face.

I'll miss your kindness and your love that you showed to me and my family throughout the years. I'll miss your happy voice over the phone. My memories of you is something that time cannot erase. To lose you brings such sadness to each and everyone of us.

But know that you live on, in my heart and in my memory. I was truly blessed to have meet you as a dear friend and to have called you my Auntie.

Love always, Heather Jeffrey- Sealey

Heather - February 12 at 07:07 AM

JM

RIP my Cousin Paula. (Cousins of the Simons/Jenkins /Limericks Cromwell and others)

JOAN MARSH - February 12 at 12:32 PM

CB

“ Dear Paula
We are stunned and saddened by your departure - so sudden and unexpected- as it seemed to us. But God's timing is infallible and he knows why and when and how.

I shall miss your infectious laughter and wonderful conversations.

My deepest condolences to your family. May the Angels guard your eternal rest.

Carole Bishop

Carole Bishop - February 11 at 11:29 PM

RF

My heartfelt condolences to the family of Ms. Blackman. May God's Love and Grace bring them comfort and peace.

Thank you Ms. Blackman for your Lay Leader Ministry and service to the Kingdom of God. (Ressie Fuller)

Ressie Fuller - February 12 at 09:30 AM

DB

We are still shocked by the sudden passing of Paula. Her smile , friendliness and pleasant demeanor will not ever be forgotten.

We felt loved and welcomed, whenever we stopped by to visit with Paula and Karen.

This is a very sad time, but as we mourn her passing, let us thank God for the privilege of knowing her and sharing those unforgettable moments.

Our sympathy to Karen and the rest of the family.

Donna & Donna Baker

Daniel & Donna Baker - February 12 at 03:53 PM

“ **TRIBUTE TO PAULA BLACKMAN FROM KIITY METHODIST CHURCH,
GUYANA**

While living in Guyana, during the 1970s and 1980s, Sis. Paula Blackman maintained her membership at the Beulah Chapel, Kitty in the Georgetown Circuit of the Methodist Church in Guyana. She was one of those members, who readily offered to serve the church and at the same time, she graciously accepted requests for her service. It was no wonder therefore, that our sister in Christ was involved at all levels of the church structure within the Guyana District of the Methodist Church of the Caribbean and the Americas (MCCA). In addition, she ably represented the Guyana District at a number of Connexional Conferences and meetings of the MCCA.

Sis Paula was very articulate in the delivery of her thoughts and opinions during meetings and was also meticulous in providing details of matters under discussion. These qualities did not escape the attention of the church, both at the level of the district, as well as at the Connexional level. Consequently, Sis. Blackman was often asked to head committees, which she did with great skill and a high level of efficiency, earning her the respect that she deserved. Even as she served in whatever capacity, she also displayed a willingness to learn and was keen on progress and growth for herself and the work of the church.

Our beloved sister will be remembered as being very hospitable to the clergy and sensitive to their needs. Thus, she gained the confidence of many ministers serving in the Guyana district. She was seen as someone with a strong and amicable personality that emanated warmth and concern for the welfare of others. Sis Paula was a committed and devout Christian, who was very proud of her Methodist heritage, and even after leaving Guyana to live in the USA, she remained interested in the work of the MCCA. She made invaluable contributions to the Methodist church in Guyana, the Caribbean and further afield and her legacy will live on for generations. She lived her life wisely and invested in it for the illumination of the Kingdom of God. As we say farewell to our dear departed sister, it can be said that Sis Blackman lived her life by the motto of the MCCA – ‘The love of Christ constrains us.’

MAY HER SOUL REST IN PEACE

TOGETHER WITH THE SAINTS WHO HAVE GONE BEFORE

EC

“ My dear friend Paula. I met you in UNICEF over 30 years ago and we shared so many great memories and those memories would be unforgettable. You were such a positive person, always smiling and laughing, always willing to help, and most importantly your family and friends brought you so much joy. So glad I got to talk to you the night before. Talking about the snow in NC; how you were planning to go to church on Sunday morning. Never in my wildest dream did I think it would be the last time I would be talking to you. You will be missed. Rest well my friend.

-Elma S. Charles

Elma S. Charles - February 10 at 08:12 PM

MM

*Elma, so sorry to hear about Paula's passing.
Marjorie Marks*

Marjorie Marks - February 11 at 01:50 PM

PF

“ *Though I only knew her a short time, I was able to recognize how special Paula was. She will be missed. Paula Freivogel*

Paula Freivogel - February 10 at 04:47 PM

ZF

“ *What a special lady Paula was. She was an active member of the South Orange-Vailsburg UMC for many years in the 1980's . Her love of Christ was always obvious in her the way she lived her life. May God bled her soul.*

Zelda Felzenberg

Zella Felzenberg - February 08 at 07:01 PM

KS

“ *My cousin Paula Blackman's professional engagements, pleasant personality, helpful demeanor, nimble mind, flowing conversations, and her eagerness to entertain family and friends are activities and qualities that I will always remember and miss. Paula is certainly gone too soon. May the pleasant memories of her time with us prevail as she rests in peace.*

Kemp Simon

Kemp Simon - February 08 at 06:46 PM

JM

“ I am so sorry to hear of Paula's passing. She and I worked closely together on the Personnel committee of the annual conference in the early 2000s. I was grateful for her wisdom, experience, faithfulness, and kindness. It was a blessing to be in her presence. She's gone far too soon. May God bless her family and friends in this difficult time. We know she's gone home. - Rev. Joe Monahan, Medford UMC

Joe Monahan - February 08 at 12:34 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Paula Blackman.



February 07 at 10:37 AM

FA

“ My Aunt Constance was married to Paula's uncle, Mr Xerxes Simon. Paula and I had sung a duet at Auntie's home going service. May Paula's soul Rest in Peace and Rise in Glory.
Fleur Ainsworth-Greene

Fleur Ainsworth-Greene - February 06 at 02:28 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Paula Blackman.



February 06 at 02:17 PM



“ 4 files added to the album Memories Album



James Funeral Home - February 05 at 09:45 AM