

Pallbearers

Grandsons, Nephews, Cousins

Flower Attendants

Granddaughters, Nieces, Cousins

Acknowledgments

We, the family of the late Willie Gray Faniel, express our sincere gratitude and heartfelt THANKS to each of you during the passing of our loved one. Special thanks to our Social Worker Ms. Stephanie, CommunityHospice of Ozark, Libby Babington, RN and Adam Carlee, Chaplin at Enhabit Home Health and Hospice, Enterprise, AL and Hannah Williams, Cornerstone Caregiving, Dothan, AL.

Always Beside You

Whatever betide you, God is always beside you.

So, "let not your heart be troubled"
Nor your mind be filled with fear,
For you have God's reassurance
That He's always very near.

Services Entrusted to:



Celebrating the Life of



Brother Willie Gray Faniel

Sunrise
February 1, 1934

Sunset
January 10, 2025

"To everything there is a season. A time to be born and a time to die"
~ Ecclesiastes 3:12

Tuesday, January 14, 2025
11:00 AM

St. Mark African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church
155 Liberty Avenue ~ Ozark, Alabama

Reverend Antonio Carter, Presiding

Reverend Dr. Eddie Medley, Officiating

Reverend Dr. Kathy McFadden, Presiding Elder,
East Montgomery District

The Right Reverend Dwayne A. Walker, Presiding Prelate,
Alabama-Florida Episcopal District

Obituary

Willie Gray Faniel was the third child and first son born to the late J.D. and Carrie Faniel of Bullock County, Alabama, on February 1, 1934. Thirteen children completed this happy family circle.

After attending school in Bullock County, Bro. Faniel moved to Florida, New York, and finally settled in Ozark, Alabama. There, he worked for the Army and Air Force Exchange System at Fort Rucker, Alabama, as an operator of a "Running Chef" mobile cafe. He became one of the first African American police officers for the Ozark Police Department.

Bro. Faniel moved into a civil service job as a Merchandising Specialist and Auctioneer in the Defense Logistics Agency. He worked in this career and retired after forty years of outstanding service.

He sang with the "Silver Leaves" quartet of Ozark for many years. Bro. Faniel also enjoyed working in the community. He enjoyed fishing and hanging out with other retirees at Hardees, their favorite meeting place.

Willie was an active member of St. Mark A.M.E. Zion Church. He served in the following positions: Preacher's Steward, member of the Trustee Board, Sunday School Teacher, and a member of the Male Choir. He was a member of the Lay Council and Sons of Varick organization.

He was preceded in death by a son, Stanley Faniel; three sisters, Carrie Bell Pleasant, Margaret Keeler, and Dora Sistrunk; and three brothers, Jim Faniel, Jerry Faniel, and George Wallace Faniel.

Survivors include his devoted wife, Bessie Faniel; five children, Delores Porter (Ozark, AL), Joyce Ann Agbana (Ozark, AL), Judy Faniel (Ozark, AL), and Bernard Faniel (Louisville, AL), Alfred Pearson (Flint, MI); eight grandchildren, Sheriuka Holston (Arthur), Marcus Porter (Courtney), Ashley Porter (Jamari Bean), Stephanie Dayo (Ray), Sabrina Faniel, Adrian Faniel, Cherrell Faniel, Brandon Faniel, and many great-grandchildren; two brothers, Harrington ("Pal") Faniel (Ozark, AL) and Carrander (Mae Eva) Faniel (Saginaw, MI); and three sisters, Gussie Lee Rogers (Ozark, AL), Alice Faniel Matthews (Columbia, SC), and Dartha Faniel (Shreveport, LA). Willie also had many nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends who will always cherish his memories.

Order of Service

Reverend Antonio Carter, Presiding

Prelude.....	Bethel Terry
Processional	
Hymn.....	"What a Friend We Have in Jesus"
Scriptures:	
Old Testament.....	Reverend Loretta Payne, Pastor Rodgers Chapel AMEZ Church, Wetumpka, AL
New Testament.....	Reverend Jack McCrary, Pastor Shiloh Seventh Day Adventist Church, Ozark, AL Mt. Olive Seventh Day Adventist Church, Dothan, AL
Prayer.....	Reverend Edward Norfleet
Selection.....	Choir
Reflections & Tributes:	
As a Church Member.....	Todd Coleman
As a Family Member.....	Alice Matthews
Obituary.....	Read Silently
Acknowledgments & Resolution	
Selection.....	Choir
Eulogy.....	Reverend Dr. Eddie Medley
Prayer of Comfort.....	Reverend Antonio Carter
Recessional	

Interment

Little Zion Cemetery
Campground Road
Ozark, Alabama

Repast

Shiloh Seventh Day Adventist Church
199 Willa Street
Ozark, Alabama