

# *Celebrating a Life Well-Lived...*

Sunrise:

**August 23, 1942**

Sunset:

**August 18, 2020**



## **Rev. Dr. Faye Savage Gunn**

FRIDAY,  
AUGUST 28,  
2020

10:00am – Family Viewing | 11:00am - Homegoing Celebration | Funeral  
Alfred Street Baptist Church, 301 S. Alfred Street, Alexandria, VA 22314  
Rev. Dr. Howard-John Wesley, Senior Pastor



## A CELEBRATION OF LIFE

# *The Rev. Dr. Faye Savage Gunn*



**“I WILL LIFT UP MINE EYES UNTO THE HILLS, FROM  
WHENCE COMETH MY HELP. MY HELP COMETH FROM THE  
LORD, WHICH MADE HEAVEN AND EARTH.”**

**— PSALM 121: 1-2**

Faye Savage Gunn was born on August 23, 1942 in Accomac, Virginia, the second oldest of four children to the late Coston Rudolph Savage and Eliza Ann Taylor Savage. She was baptized at a very young age. She attended Wattsville Elementary School and Mary N. Smith High School in Accomac.

Faye left Accomac in 1959 to attend Norfolk State University in Norfolk, Virginia where she acquired a quest for education. She graduated from Norfolk State with a Bachelor of Science degree in Education and later received a Master of Education degree in Secondary Educational Administration, Summa Cum Laude, from Bowie State University, Bowie, MD. She received a Master of Divinity degree from the School of Theology at Virginia Union University, Richmond, VA (magna cum laude) and did further studies at the University of Virginia, Virginia State University, and Virginia Polytechnic Institute. She received her Doctor of Ministry Degree from the Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, DC.

At Norfolk State, Faye not only fulfilled her discernment for a degree but also for her soul mate, the love of her life, future husband and father of her two children, Fred Gunn. Fred is a man of few words, but he spoke enough words to woo the lovely Faye Savage. Faye Savage and Fred Gunn were united in holy matrimony. To this union was born two sons, Kelvin and Rodney, who of course were the joys of her life. They brought even greater happiness to





her with nine grandchildren: DauVeen, Kyle, Kapri, Kolter, Kolin, Kayla, Darah, Zachary and Bryce and six great-grandchildren: Brooklyn, Daubrey, Leila, Luce, Emrie, and Omere.

Faye loved her family dearly and would do anything for her grandchildren. She loved cooking and they loved eating her delicious dishes, including salmon cakes and fried apples. She was also a straight shooter in sharing her thoughts on various subjects, whether solicited or not. You could count on her to tell you the truth and not sugar coat; but it was always in love and with best intentions. She loved to shop and was always dressed finely, especially in her pink and green. Faye, always being fashionably dressed, would often be found “dressed up” when the rest of us were casual at our annual “beach week”. We tried in vain to get her to “dress down” a bit but, most times, to no avail. She was also known for her “lead foot” and would get you to where you were going in no time or sooner!

Faye’s teaching career began in 1964 in the Accomack County Public Schools in Accomac, VA. She taught there for two years before moving on to the big city of Danville, VA where she taught for three years until 1969 when upon coaxing from their friends Regina and Jim, she and Fred relocated to Alexandria, VA. Faye continued her teaching career in the Alexandria City Public Schools in Alexandria, VA for 13 years from August 23, 1971 to June 30, 1984. She taught at Hammond Middle School, George Washington Middle School, and T.C. Williams High School. She was an outstanding teacher and that gift would serve her well in the years to come as she was nominated as an outstanding secondary educator and served as workshop consultant for the Department of Education in Richmond, VA.

On the first Sunday of the New Year in 1971, Faye Gunn joined the historic Alfred Street Baptist Church in Alexandria, Virginia, moving her membership from the Oak Grove Baptist Church in Blairs, VA. She became very active at Alfred Street where she taught Young Adult Sunday School; was a member of the Missionary Circle; and chaired the Commission on Evangelism.

The year 1979 began a period of time in which major events would take place in her life that would mold and make her into the person she was to become. Some of these events were good and some were not so good, but it is safe to say that they all were life changing. In 1979, Faye received the hard



news that she had breast cancer. It was a difficult time in her life but, as we all know, difficult times bring us much closer to God. In the spring of 1981, Faye felt a call on her life for the ministry and spoke with her pastor, Rev. John O. Peterson about it. Faye wanted to share God's gift of salvation and spread the gospel. She was obedient to the calling and was licensed to preach the gospel by Alfred Street Baptist Church on December, 12 1982 after giving her trial sermon.

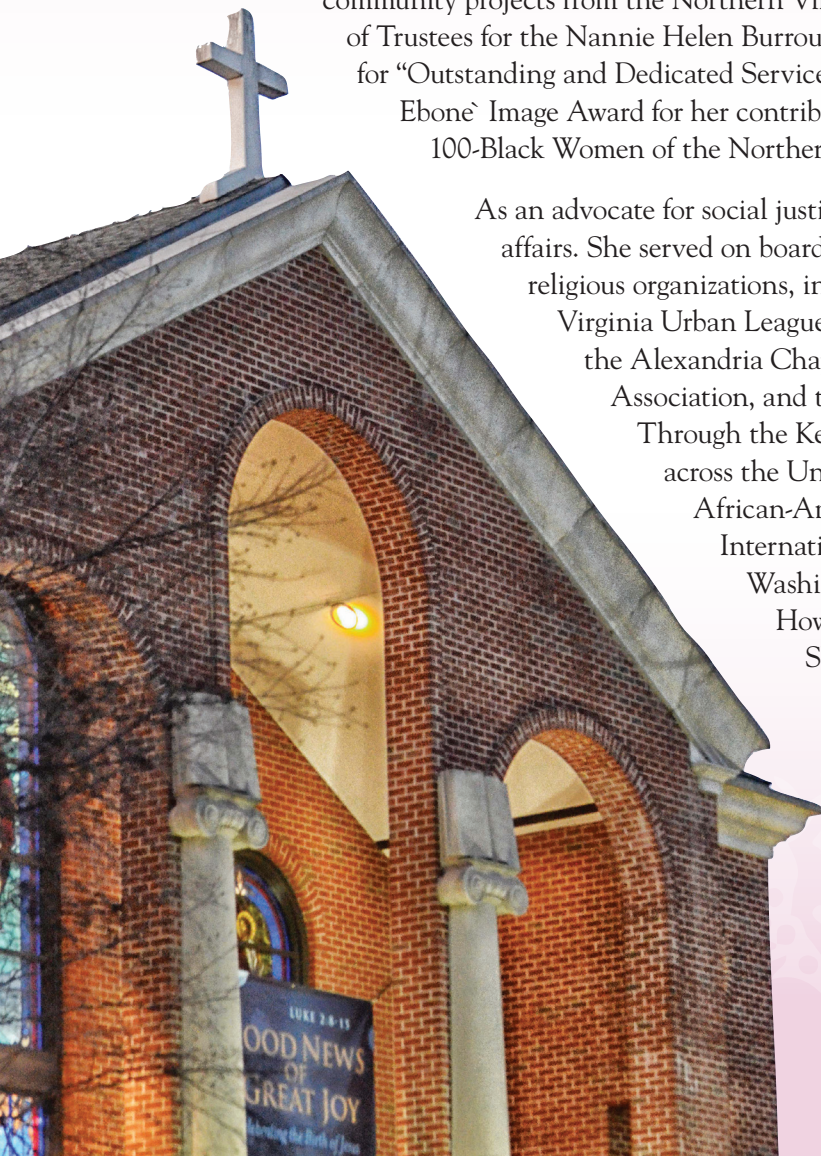
In 1984, she experienced a second bout of cancer, but she did not let that stop her from being obedient to God. She was on the battlefield for her Lord and on the battlefield with cancer. Faye prevailed and won both of these battles. She was ordained by Alfred Street on November 23, 1984 and was now called the Reverend Faye Savage Gunn. She began to practice her calling by accepting a part-time assignment as Assistant to the Pastor, Rev. John O. Peterson.

She served as the Assistant Pastor of Alfred Street until her retirement on July 31, 2010. During this period, Faye had the distinct honor to serve as Interim Pastor from January 2007 through April, 2008 during the search and calling of the 8<sup>th</sup> and current pastor of Alfred Street, Reverend Doctor Howard-John Wesley. Subsequent to her serving as Interim Pastor, she continued to lead in various capacities at Alfred Street, including Director of the Christian Education Life Institute and also assisted the pastor as needed with other ministerial duties of the church.

The Reverend Dr. Gunn is recognized as a leader and has been honored by many for her outstanding leadership. She received the 1999 James L. Anderson Award for her support of education and community projects from the Northern Virginia Urban League and as a member of the Board of Trustees for the Nannie Helen Burroughs School in Washington, DC, she was honored for "Outstanding and Dedicated Service" in 1996. In March of 1991, she received the Ebone® Image Award for her contribution in the field of religion from the Coalition of 100-Black Women of the Northern Virginia Chapter.

As an advocate for social justice, she was actively involved in community affairs. She served on boards of directors and as a member of community and religious organizations, including the Resource Mothers of the Northern Virginia Urban League, the American Cancer Society-Alexandria Unit, the Alexandria Chapter of the Red Cross, the Alexandria Clergy Association, and the Alexandria Council of Church Women United. Through the Kellogg Foundation, she dialogued with women from across the United States in a seminar seeking resolutions for the African-American male. She served as a participant with the International Summit for "Cancer Awareness" through the Washington Hospital Center and as a speaker for the Howard University Hospital on Cancer Awareness. She served as an Advisor Member for the YES (Youth, Education, & Scholarship) Opportunities Foundation, Inc. and was a member of the Cancer Development Committee for the City of Alexandria.

Dr. Gunn has been the conference preacher for the Women's Auxiliary of the Lott Carey Baptist Foreign Mission Convention; Progressive National Baptist Convention; Conference





preacher for women's retreats; guest speaker for the Department of Army, Navy, and the City of Alexandria for Black History Month; and she served as a workshop leader and consultant for the Baptist General Convention of Virginia and local churches. She was privileged to preach at the historic Canaan Baptist Church of Christ in New York City. At the 18<sup>th</sup> Baptist World Alliance Conference in Melbourne, Australia, Dr. Gunn served as a Community Leader for over 250 Baptists from around the world. At the New Baptist Covenant Convention in Atlanta, GA (2008), she served as a moderator for one of the focus groups, "Proclaiming the Good News." She was a presenter for Christian Education in London, England and preached at one of the largest Black churches in England. One of her sermons entitled "Converted on a Cross," is published in *Those Preaching Women, Vol. 2*, edited by Dr. Ella P. Mitchell. She has a published devotional in *Sister to Sister, Vol. 2* and she served as an Editorial Advisor for the first *Women of Color Study Bible*.

She was a former officer and member of the Jack and Jill, Inc., of America; former Cub Scout mother; former president of the Alpha Wives of Prince George's County, MD and a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated®.

Faye will be remembered for the many roles that she has played while on her journey here on earth... daughter, wife, mother, grandmother, great grandmother, friend, administrator, teacher, minister and pastor. She has certainly been there for many and so often visited those in hospitals, attended and even preached the funerals for many of our loved ones. She's continually offered prayer and comfort and to hold our hands to demonstrate that she is committed to put GOD's Word in action. There are two things we will all agree on; the Rev. Dr. Faye Savage Gunn was a woman of God and one who was not ashamed to stand boldly to tell the old, old story and the blessings of serving an Awesome God.

She is survived by her husband, Fred J. Gunn, two sons, Kelvin J. Gunn (Beverly) and Rodney D. Gunn (Natalie), sister Marsha Simpkins, brothers Ivan Savage and Ronald (Ronnie) Savage, nine grandchildren: DauVeen, Kyle, Kapri, Kolter, Kolin, Kayla, Darah, Zachary and Bryce, six great-grandchildren: Brooklyn, Daubrey, Leila, Luce, Emrie, and Omere and a host of other relatives and friends.



HER MOTTO IS:

“WITHOUT GOD SHE CANNOT  
DO ANYTHING, BUT WITH GOD  
SHE CAN DO ALL THINGS.”

# A TRIBUTE TO REV. DR. FAYE SAVAGE GUNN

*on the Occasion of Her Final Retirement and Moving to Her New Home*

BY DEACON AL HALL, ALFRED STREET BAPTIST CHURCH

Speak of a beautiful orchid from a flower garden.  
Talk about a lily from the Valley of the Sun.  
Then think about the sweetheart of Alfred Street,  
And focus on God servant, Dr. Faye Savage Gunn.

She was a woman of wisdom and understanding.  
She was a pillar of strength in every way.  
Dr. Gunn served the Lord through service to others,  
And He kept blessing her day after day.

She was recognized as a woman of courage.  
She had a heart for helping people in need.  
Because of her dependence on the Power of God,  
She stepped forward when it was time to lead.

Dr. Gunn was at hospitals early in the morning.  
She prayed with members before their operation.  
She stood by the bedside of dying loved ones.  
She was a source of comfort and consolation.

Dr. Gunn studied to show herself worthy.  
Her many degrees prepared her to teach.  
The Holy Spirit controlled her daily life,  
And soon the whole world knew she could preach.

A lot of women thought they were “queen of the kitchen.”  
For some dishes, they were leader of the pack.  
But when it came to making a sweet potato pie,  
Those “wanna-to-be cooks” had to stand back!

Trying to welcome Pastor Wesley to Alfred Street,  
One sister baked a sweet potato pie – in a flash.  
Word is out that Pastor Wesley took one bite,  
And quickly threw the rest of it in the trash.

Faye came to the rescue and saved the day!  
After tasting her pie, there could be no doubt.  
We knew he was happy when he smacked his lips  
And said, “Now that’s what I’m talking about!”

Faye was a connoisseur of the finest food.  
But if you wanted to really hear her taste buds sing,  
You could bring her one of those hot yeast rolls  
And a plate loaded with chicken wings.

The entire congregation knew who was driving Miss Daisy.  
When out on the highway, if you turned your head,  
You may have seen a black Mercedes go zipping by,  
That was probably Miss Daisy, who was driving Fred.

Police have always issued tickets in the Washington area.  
It may have been for speeding or some other infraction.  
Faye would often step on the gas and moved on out,  
Without any law enforcement attraction.

She knew how to buy her clothes, as well as her shoes.  
She often went shopping and stayed a while.  
When Faye was not wearing that gospel robe,  
She was one preacher who dressed in style.

When the occasion dictated dressing up,  
Those flat shoes had to be out of her sight.  
Faye would strut out wearing at least three-inch heels,  
Whether it was on a Sunday or on a Friday night.

If you went to Dr. Gunn’s office to discuss a problem,  
You had to be ready to stand the test.  
You couldn’t give her just half of the facts.  
You had to be prepared to share the rest.

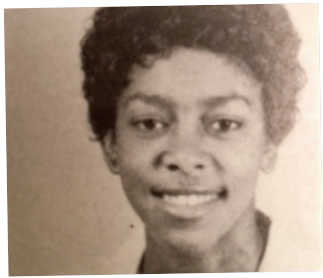
She would not stand for “beating around the bush.”  
She was not going to guess what you were trying to say.  
She was willing to help you, if were sincere,  
And she did it in such a caring way.

She would tell you exactly like it was!  
And it was all right if you got bent out of joint.  
Because of her honesty and profound integrity,  
She felt constrained to get right to the point.

Alfred Street is going to miss this wonderful angel.  
We are saddened that she will not be around.  
We thank God for blessing us all these years  
With this precious jewel that we found.

Farewell, Dr. Gunn, from all of us.  
We know God has welcomed you in his arms with love.  
We are going to continue on our Christian journey  
Until we join you in our home above.





# ORDER OF SERVICE

Prelude .....Organists

Invocation..... Rev. Dr. Howard-John Wesley, *Pastor*

Hymn of Rejoicing..... Great Is Thy Faithfulness

## Scripture Reading

Old Testament.....Psalm 23  
Rev. Edward Y. Jackson

Epistle..... 1 Thessalonians 4:13–18  
Rev. Emmett L. Dunn

New Testament ..... John 14:1–6  
Deacon Kimberly Nickens Randle

Prayer of Comfort..... Rev. Marla Hawkins

Acknowledgments ..... Rev. Dr. Howard-John Wesley, *Pastor*

## Church Tribute/Reflection

Musical Selection.....My Witness Is in Heaven, Ralph Herndon, *Soloist & Arranger*

Tributes.....Sylvia Johnson, *Childhood Friend*  
Zachary Gunn, *Grandson*  
DauVeen Walker, *Granddaughter*

Musical Selection.....Jesus Promised Me A Home Over There  
India Williams, *Soloist*

Eulogy..... Rev. Dr. Howard-John Wesley, *Pastor*

Hymn of Rejoicing.....When We All Get to Heaven

Closing Prayer & Benediction..... Rev. Dr. Howard-John Wesley, *Pastor*







## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The family is immensely grateful for all of the overwhelming prayer, love and support in so many ways. We are extremely blessed to have our village of loved ones surrounding us and are especially thankful for our Alfred Street Baptist Church family during this difficult time. Every act of kindness, big or small has helped to make our load a little easier to bear. We ask that you please continue to spread kindness in an effort to make our world a better place.

– The Family

## IN LIEU OF FLOWERS

In lieu of flowers and to honor Dr. Gunn and keep her legacy alive, donations can be made to the Rev. Dr. Faye S. Gunn Legacy Scholarship which is administered by the Alfred Street Baptist Church Foundation.

### PALLBEARERS

Kolin Gunn  
Jeffrey Lee  
Elwood Lewis, Jr.  
Andre Moore  
Earl Stafford, Jr.  
Brian Walker

### INTERMENT

Quantico  
National  
Cemetery

### SERVICES ENTRUSTED TO:

Pope Funeral Home  
2617 Pennsylvania Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20020

