

## PALLBEARERS

The Brothers of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity

## FLOWER BEARERS

Ushers and Friends of the Family

## FINAL ARRANGEMENTS

Smith and Gaston Funeral Services, Inc.

## INTERMENT

Highland Memorial Gardens

## REPAST

The Pavilion Family Life Center  
New Pilgrim Baptist Church

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

With sincere appreciation, we wish to thank our many friends for their expressions of kindness during the passing of our dear loved one.

Whatever it may have been that you did to console our hearts and support us during this time of bereavement is very much appreciated.

We thank you from the depths of our hearts.

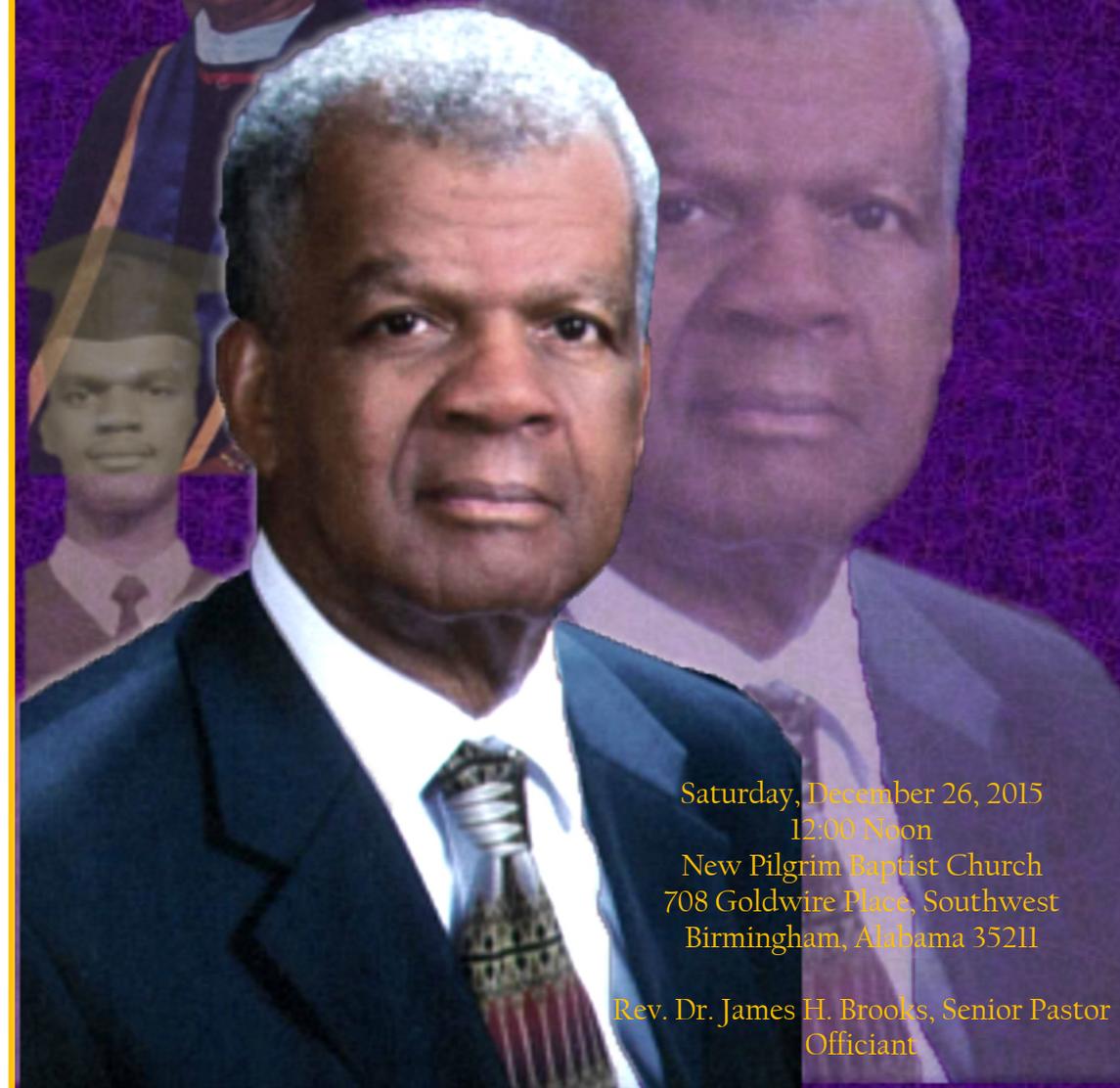
—The Family of Charles F. Jordan—



Celebrating the Life of \_\_\_\_\_

*Mr. Charles F. Jordan*

\_\_\_\_\_  
August 30, 1940 — December 18, 2015



Saturday, December 26, 2015  
12:00 Noon

New Pilgrim Baptist Church  
708 Goldwire Place, Southwest  
Birmingham, Alabama 35211

Rev. Dr. James H. Brooks, Senior Pastor  
Officiant

### *His Life*

Former students marveled at his subject matter expertise and strong efforts to impart knowledge and promote education. Neighbors kindly envied his pristine-kept property and award-winning lawn, but immensely appreciated the beauty and influence of both. Fellow cohorts respected his professionalism, intellect, calm demeanor, and quiet leadership. Family and friends loved him, and profusely admired and enjoyed his quick wit, easy mannerisms, and sense of humor, albeit with a soft but sure voice and deliberate actions. Governed by a raised bar in his private or professional domain, **CHARLES FRANK JORDAN** was a man of character with a mastery of detail in his work performance and personal expectations that exceeded most.

*It* all began on a late summer day – August 30, 1940 – in Birmingham, Alabama. The late Mollie and Robert Jordan, Sr. were abundantly blessed with a bundle of joy and as parents should, early on instilled in Charles, through example and teachable moments, the value and benefits of being a person of integrity. He listened, learned, and followed suit. Above all else, Charles was inspired and lifted up by his early acceptance of Jesus Christ as his personal Savior, uniting first with St. Luke A.M.E. Church, Hueytown, Alabama, and later joining New Pilgrim Missionary Baptist Church.

Education was also key in the Jordan household. Charles was a student of the Jefferson County School System, graduating from Westfield High School in 1958. He enrolled at Miles College and received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Mathematics. Inc. in 1961 during his undergraduate studies, Charles pledged the Eta Epsilon Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Incorporated. Continuing his education, he attended and received a Master's of Art Degree from Atlanta University. With the exception of a dissertation, he completed all doctoral degree requirements at Michigan State University.

Love is a many splendored thing. That splendor, for Charles Frank Jordan, was found in his high school sweetheart and soulmate, Mary Finley, whom he happily wed in 1963. Blessed with two dedicated sons, Roderick and Brian, their 52 united years of mutual love and respect also yielded for each and in each other a best friend, confidante, and biggest supporter. The epitome of a fun-loving couple, they loved to travel and welcomed social and family events, at which Charles thoroughly relished his role as the *roaming* photographer. Along with Mary, Charles' decades-long role as a fiercely devoted alumnus of Miles College was evidence of his deep affection for and support of the school.

Probably most memorable, for many who knew Charles, will be his extraordinary maintenance of his lawn. He meticulously tilled the land, planted, mowed, groomed, lopped, and snipped until perfection prevailed and his grass was greenest. Weeds were forbidden, so much so, to prevent their reoccurrence he would carefully pluck them and seek their origin from Auburn University College of Agriculture. His efforts paid off. Passersby were transfixed. Neighbors were proud to be neighbors. Charles was delighted...and so appeased.

Charles' professional career, indicative of his stability, unselfishness, and deep commitment to education, includes over 40 years as a Math Professor, Chairperson of the Mathematics Department, Associate Dean of Natural Sciences, and Evening Dean of Mathematics and Science at Lawson State Community College.

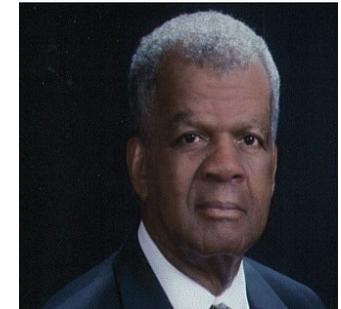
The epic story of Charles Frank Jordan has no end. In surrendering his life to Christ many years ago, this one-of-a-kind family man, gentleman, scholar, professor, and friend also conceded his limited time here on earth. On Friday, December 18, 2015, he relinquished his worldly skill set and kissed the sunny shores of jubilee, embarking on his final journey to a place prepared – a place where God's tremendous grace and mercy are everlasting, lawns are flawlessly manicured, and the wicked cease from troubling.

Left to fondly cherish his memory and preserve his exceptional legacy are: his loving wife, Mary; two devoted sons, Roderick (Vickie) of Midland, GA, and Brian (Carla) of Moody, AL; one loyal grandson, Devin Gary; three step-grandsons, Cornelius, Darius, and Darian Lee; three sisters, Elizabeth Tolliver of Los Angeles, CA, and Callie (Fred) Thomas and Dorothy McClain of Birmingham, AL; sisters-in-laws, Essie Jordan, Justine Threats, Rosetta Finley, and Yvette Harris; brothers-in-laws, Richard Finley and Ronald Finley; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

*Well done, good and faithful servant! Well done!*

## MY LAST REQUEST

Please don't say that I gave up, just say that I gave in.  
Don't say I lost the battle, for it was God's war to lose or win.  
Please, don't say how good I was, but that I did my best.  
Just say I tried to do what is right, to give the most I could, not do less.  
Please don't give me wings or halos, that's for God to do.  
I want no more than I deserve, no extras, just my due.  
Please don't give me flowers, or talk in harsh tones.  
Don't be concerned about me now, I'm well with God; I've made it home.  
Don't talk about what could have been, it's over and it's done.  
Just see to all my family's needs, the battle has been won.  
When you draw a picture of me, don't draw me a saint.  
I've done some good; I've done some wrong. So use your paint,  
Not just the bright and light tones. Use some gray and dark.  
In fact, don't put me down on canvas, paint me in your heart.  
Don't just remember all the good times, but remember the bad.  
For life is full of many things, some happy, some sad.  
But if you must do something, then I have one last request:  
Forgive me for the wrongs I've done and with love that's left.  
Thank God, for my soul is at rest.  
Thank God for all who loved me. Praise God who loved me best.





ORDER OF SERVICE  
*A Celebration of Life for Mr. Charles F. Jordan*  
 1940 – 2015

Organ Prelude.....Musician

Music.....Choir

Scriptures

Old Testament.....Reverend Tyrone Thomas  
 Morning Star Baptist Church, Livingston, AL  
 Moderator of Mount Herman District

New Testament.....Reverend Walter Solomon  
 Greater Mount Moriah Missionary Baptist Church  
 North Pratt, Birmingham, AL

Prayer.....Mr. Ronald Finley

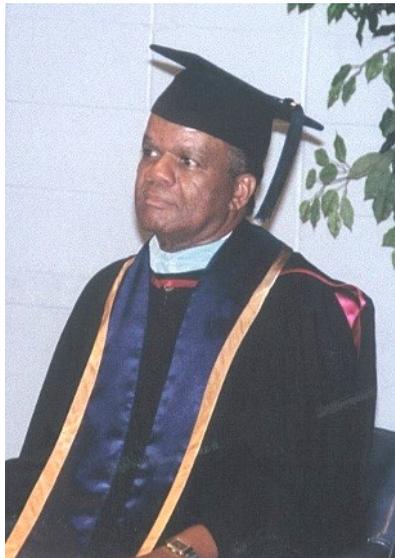
Music.....Reverend Jerry Cunningham  
 Associate Pastor of Worship and Pastoral Care  
 New Pilgrim Baptist Church, Birmingham, AL

Reflections.....Dr. Perry Ward  
 President  
 Lawson State Community College

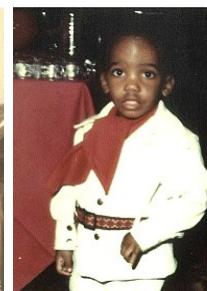
Solo.....Pamela Threats

Eulogy.....Reverend James H. Brooks  
 Senior Pastor  
 New Pilgrim Baptist Church, Birmingham, AL

Recessional.....Choir



# Precious Memories, How they Linger.



**IF I KNEW**  
If I knew it would be the last time  
That I'd see you fall asleep,  
I would tuck you in more tightly  
And pray the Lord, your soul to keep.  
If I knew it would be the last time  
That I see you walk out the door,  
I would give you a hug and kiss  
And call you back for one more.  
If I knew it would be the last time  
I'd hear your voice lifted up in praise,  
I would video tape each action and word,  
So I could play them back day after day.  
If I knew . . . .

