



## Donald Cordell

January 31, 1947 - September 4, 2011

CORDELL, Dr. DONALD A. - Age 64, On Sunday, September 4th, 2011, Dr. Donald A. Cordell peacefully departed this life to be with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Dr. Cordell was born on January 31, 1947 in Rocky Mount, NC, to the late Spencer M. and Lula B. Cordell. He had nine siblings. One sister, (Ernestine) and one brother, (James) preceded him in death. In 1972, he married Patricia D. Stowe-Cordell. They have been happily married for 39 years and to this union 2 children were born. He attended Rocky Mount Public Schools in Rocky Mount, NC and graduated from Booker T. Washington High School. Dr. Cordell furthered his education at Winston-Salem Sate University in Winston Salem, NC. While at the university, Dr. Cordell was a lead soloist in the "famed" University Choir which toured Rome, Italy and Austria. Upon graduation he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Music Education with a minor in English. Dr. Cordell was immediately recruited and hired by the School District of the City of Pontiac. During his career with the Pontiac School District, he taught vocal music and reading for 10 years at the middle school level and vocal music and English at Pontiac Central for 16 years. His professionalism and excellence in education made him a target by Dr. Sam Abram for the position of Director of Fine and Performing Arts for the Pontiac School District. Dr. Cordell accepted and remained in this position until he retired in December of 2006. Dr. Cordell continued his education and went on to receive his Master of Arts degree in bilingual education from Oakland University, Secondary School Administration Certification from Oakland

University and a Philosophy of Education doctoral degree from LaSalle University. Dr. Cordell was the Minister of Music at New Bethel Baptist Church in Pontiac, MI for 29 years and Minister of Music at Christ Presbyterian Church in Southfield, MI; for 5 years. He was ordained as a deacon in 1975 and carried this charge with great pride and honor. Dr. Cordell's community affiliations include Sr. Director of the City Wide Choir Union for 37 years, member of the Board of Directors for the Pontiac Kiwanis club, member of the Board of Directors for the Creative Arts Center, member of St. Stephens Missionary Baptist Church and member of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity Incorporated. Dr. Cordell was an accomplished singer who used his gift of vocal ministry to touch souls around the world. He leaves beautiful memories to be cherished by his devoted wife, Patricia D. Cordell, two daughters, Donna P. Cordell of Alpharetta, GA and Donita D. Cordell of Auburn Hills, MI; three brothers, Elmer Cordell of Pontiac, MI, Robert Cordell and Timothy (Janice) Cordell of Rocky Mount, NC; four sisters, Geraldine Anderson and Dorothy (Willie) Shepherd of Pontiac, MI, Shirley (Sidney) Cordell-Robinson of Fredericksburg, VA and Diane (Michael) Cordell-Wright of Rocky Mount, NC; two sister-in-laws, Sandra (Edward) Chavis of Fayetteville, NC and Carol (Alfred) Poe of Winston Salem, NC; and a host of nieces, nephews and other relatives and friends. Family hour 11:00AM Saturday September, 10, 2011 at St. Stephens Missionary Baptist Church, 69 S. Astor St., with funeral service commencing at 12Noon. Pastor Al J. Terrell, officiating. Entombment Christian Memorial Gardens Cemetery, 521 Hamlin Rd. Friends and pallbearers will assemble at the church 11AM Saturday. Dr. Cordell will lie in state in the Chapel of Lawrence E. Moon Funeral Home, 268 N. Perry St., and may be viewed from 12Noon-8PM Friday.

# Tribute Wall

KW

“ Dear Pat, Donna and Donita. We have lost a wonderful, God filled, man who has brought many a smile from his wit and never to be forgotten music. My son called him Dad, and was always willing to help with anything needed in the choir at PCHS. Having had the direct contact of his musical genius as a member of the choir at NBNBC, I know what he gave to the children on the schol district. You will always have my love, support, and prayers as I share in your grief. Your faith will help you through this time of loss. Karen Lane Wilson.

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**Karen Lane Wilson** - September 04, 2011 at 12:00 AM

PL

“ I am so sorry for your loss. The death of a loved one is such a painful time. Only God truly understands the depth of your pain, and he offers comfort and hope to each of you at this most difficult time. Please read Isaiah 26:19, Psalm 37:29 and John Chapter 11.

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**P Land** - September 04, 2011 at 12:00 AM

FD

“ God's Grace is Sufficient for you and your family. You all are in our thoughts and prayers.

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**Fern Dowell** - September 04, 2011 at 12:00 AM

RB

“ Donita....my deepest sympathy to you and your family. I know your faith in God will help you through this. Thinking of you....Love Becky

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**Rebecca Brooks** - September 04, 2011 at 12:00 AM

LL

“ Dear Donita and Family: We were so sorry to hear of your Father's passing. Please know that you and your family are in our thoughts and prayers.  
Lynn

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**Lynn Lee** - September 04, 2011 at 12:00 AM

PS

“ I am so very sorry to hear about your father. Please remember that Jesus said "I am the resurrection and the life. He that believes in me, even though he may die, he will live again". Do you believe? I do, so we both have the opportunity to see our love ones again. Remember that God is stronger than our hearts. He can accomplish all things.

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**Paulette Stokes** - September 04, 2011 at 12:00 AM

DL

“ To the Family of Dr. Cordell,

*My heartfelt prayers and condolences goes out to you and your family. Although I never had Dr. Cordell as a teacher, I remember seeing him around the school. After reading his obit, he was a very gifted young man and did so much to enrich his education, talents, and was a blessing to so many. No doubt he will be sorely missed. Family continue to love and support each other. God with strengthen you all and give you peace and understanding.*

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**Deborah L. Lewis-Dean** - September 04, 2011 at 12:00 AM

CC

“ Pat and family,  
So sorry to hear of your loss. We will keep you in our prayers. We pray that God gives you strength through the days to come. I will always remember Donald's beautiful voice as he would always sing during his visits to Winston-Salem and New Bethel.

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**Carolyn Ceasar-Crosby** - September 04, 2011 at 12:00 AM

SM

“ To be absent from the body is to be Present with the Lord. I have been where you are now and I continually pray that God will give you and the family strength in this most difficult time. Love You!

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**Sharita Miller** - September 04, 2011 at 12:00 AM

TG

“ Although it is diffult today to see beyond the sorrow may looking back in memory comfort you tommorrow  
As Ecclesiastes 3:1 says To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven: Donita, May the Comfort of God help you and your entire family during this difficult season.

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**Tanisha Garner-Johnson** - September 04, 2011 at 12:00 AM

DW

“ September 4, 2011, I lost my best friend, my brother to whom I have always had a special special relationship with. A brother who was more than a sibling. He was the person who stood with me in all my endeavors. Truly, God has an angel in his heaven's gate. I miss you, I love you. It was so hard to leave you in Michigan today. I know you are resting, but I will always carry you in my heart until the day God calls me to join you. Rest my brother, rest my best friend, rest my love.

Your sis, Diane

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**Diane Cordell Wright** - September 04, 2011 at 12:00 AM

JP

“ Pat, Donald dear daughters. i am a very close friend of your sister n law, Diane from Rocky Mount, N.C. when you all use to come visit here, i have met your husband and you. the wonderful fellowship and awesome singing....I know for a fact that God is going to take you thru this. The death of the wonderful love one. He is just asleep now. You will see him again. I pray you all, God's Peace and Comfort. God Keep You In His Presious Hands....

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**Jacqueline G. Powell** - September 04, 2011 at 12:00 AM