



## Willie Carolyn Kaufman

September 20, 1938 - February 22, 2023

Willie Carolyn Weatherby Kaufman was born September 20, 1938 to Estella Hayes and Jon Robert Weatherby. To this union, she was the eldest daughter and second oldest child. Having two official birth certificates, one for the 20th and one for the 26th of September, Carolyn vivaciously celebrated the entire week. Carolyn is preceded in death by her brothers, Johnathan and Larry, and her sister, Sarah.

Carolyn began school at age five in a one room schoolhouse. As she eagerly and excitedly listened to the lessons to all of the students, her passion for learning was born and she eventually skipped two grades. Baptized in the church at age six, Carolyn found and began fulfilling her purpose and the call on her life through the piano. She became an employee of Pilgrim Missionary Baptist Church in Berrytown, KY by age twelve and followed her passion, playing the organ in the church, throughout life.

Carolyn graduated with honors from Lincoln Institute in Shelbyville, KY, in the 50s and continued to the University of Maryland Eastern Shore, where she proudly pledged Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., and earned a double Bachelors in Music Education and Social Studies. Carolyn graduated from the University of Louisville having received her Masters in Music and 30 hours above Rank One. She began her teaching career in Atlantic City, New Jersey where she taught for one year. Not long after, she returned to Louisville,

married Rev. Dr. Leonardo D. Kaufman, and they had one child, Karen Renata.

Carolyn taught faithfully in the Louisville City School System and Jefferson County School System for 38 years. As a music, social studies, and geography teacher, as well as a band director, she worked at her beloved Thomas Jefferson, Shawnee, Fern Creek, and the Historic Central High schools and several middle schools. She also taught piano and music theory at The Beaugard College of Music and Art. Music, playing, performing, and teaching, was her passion. She loved the rehearsals and getting her choirs ready for signature concerts.

Scholarly achievement was understood not only by Carolyn's students but by her family too. Carolyn's influence in music and education was so strong that her daughter and granddaughters all attended and graduated in different disciplines from the Youth Performing Arts School. Three of the four were valedictorians, just as she was.

Affectionately called "Beethoven," Carolyn played the organ for First Baptist Jeffersontown under the pastorate of Dr. Thurmond Coleman. Soon after, she began as Minister of Music and served for 40 years at Green Street Baptist Church where Rev. JV Bottoms Sr. was Pastor. Having played for many different churches around the city, when a musician was needed, Carolyn's name was synonymous with soul stirring gospel music, foot stomping Negro spirituals, classic hymns, and majestic anthems. She was dogmatic and dedicated to making certain that music played in the church was God-glorifying and biblically based.

After retiring from Green Street, she joined Canaan Christian Church under Dr. Walter Malone, Jr. and served playing the organ there briefly.

Carolyn is survived by her sister, Connie Reeves; her daughter, Karen Renata; her granddaughters, Sydney, Shelby, and Amelia; nieces, Kenyatta, Cozette, and Jasmine; and nephews, Jonathan and Chaddi.

Though small in stature, she was always tall in spirit, forthright in character and loving in her deportment. The scripture that guided her life from Matthew 8:5 was, "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God," and she served all with a pure heart and pure intentions. Ultimately, Carolyn loved the Lord with all her heart and served Him with all she had. We firmly believe that she is now playing for a heavenly choir and rocking back and forth on a gilded organ.

Visitation with family: 6pm-8pm Thursday, March 2, 2023 at Burnett Ave. Baptist Church, 6800 S. Hurstbourne Pkwy. Memorial Service: 11am Friday, March 3, 2023 at the church.

# Previous Events

## Visitation with the family

MAR 2. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Burnett Avenue Baptist Church  
6800 South Hurstbourne Parkway  
Louisville, KY 40291

## Memorial Service

MAR 3. 11:00 AM (ET)

Burnett Avenue Baptist Church  
6800 South Hurstbourne Parkway  
Louisville, KY 40291

# Tribute Wall

RH

“ I will always recall her giftedness on the organ and piano. I vividly can see her on the organ at Canaan playing the selected Hymn. She was a devout Christian woman that always encouraged me. She was a great supporter as I served on full-time ministry @ Canaan for over 18 years. In Youth Ministry, she was known to be a financial supporter and sponsor for the Annual College Tours or other initiatives. She made me a better preacher and would come to my rescue at churches where I was ministering -- if I ever nodded a call. Thanks Sister Carolyn Kaufman for your example. And, thanks to Karen and your granddaughters for taking good care of you and allowing me to call you "Mommy" too. You made Canaan a better church. Know that you will be missed. My prayers for Strength and Peace ... God is Able.



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Rev. Bobby Huguley - March 02, 2023 at 11:45 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Willie Carolyn Kaufman.



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March 02, 2023 at 08:15 AM

LH

“ Soror Carolyn and I served on many committees together in the sorority. She was always a joy to work with on any program or event. She was a truly loving person and friend. Soror Lohelen Hambrick

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Lohelen B Hambrick - February 28, 2023 at 06:16 PM

SJ

“Carolyn W. Kaufman alias "Beethoven" was a very special lady who touched my life over the 40 years that she served the music ministry at Green Street Baptist Church. I dearly loved and highly respected Mrs. Kaufman. She was an important influence in my religious music education and experience. Mrs. Kaufman was always full of energy and spirit. I enjoyed sharing time with her after church when we would fellowship over dinner. She loved her daughter, Karen, who has been an exceptional daughter and care tender during the decline of her mother's help. I love how Karen always referred to her mom as "My Girl." Karen has also done an excellent job of raising and being a role model for her three daughters. My deepest and heartfelt sympathy is extended to ALL of the family, including Raoul Cunningham, who worked beside Mrs. Kaufman for many years as a musician at GSBC. It is my prayer that God will grant you peace and strength during this time of reflection and sorrow. Love y'all



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**Solomon Morgan, Jr.** - February 28, 2023 at 10:14 AM

AS

*Precious Memories I have of the time I spent with Carolyn:: conversations, transportation singing as she played the piano, our talks about attending Lincoln Institute. An excellent musician and beautiful spirit has gone to see our Savior. My condolences and prayers for the family. Until we meet again Soror Kaufman!*

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**Anna Stivers** - March 03, 2023 at 11:59 PM

KR

“She was the Best Mom Ever And I'm grateful that God shared her with me! ~ Karen

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**Karen Renata** - February 28, 2023 at 12:23 AM