The Homegoing Celebration
for
Rev. Alvin W. Gilchrist

Saturday, 21 October, 2006
3:00 P.M.

First Metropolitan Baptist Church
3719 Belair Road
Augusta, Georgia 30909

Reverend Dr. Albert James, Presiding
Reverend Enoch Ward, Jr., Pastor
OBITUARY

On Sunday morning October 15, 2006, a guardian angel was dispatched to guide Rev. Alvin W. Gilchrist, a servant of God, on his journey to be with his heavenly father.

Rev. Alvin W. Gilchrist was born in Burke County, Georgia, August 13, 1932 to the late Jordan and Pearl C. Gilchrist of Waynesboro, GA. Alvin received his education in the Burke County school system. As a young man, he moved his mother and siblings to Augusta, GA. Alvin was employed as an instructor at the T.W. Josey High School’s Auto Mechanic Vocational program and was one of the first four African American deputy sheriffs in Richmond County during the 1960’s – 1970’s. Because of his love for cars, he eventually opened his own auto mechanic business where he worked until retirement.

At an early age, he confessed a belief in Christ and united with McElmurray Spring Branch Baptist Church where he served in the choir and later as the chairman of the board of deacons.

In 1983, God gave him a charge and he entered into the ministry. He was ordained and served as the son of the house at McElmurray Tabernacle Baptist Church. Rev. Gilchrist has spread the gospel throughout Georgia and South Carolina. In 1993, he united with First Metropolitan Baptist Church and served as the Associate pastor until his untimely death.
To Those I Love and Those Who Love Me

“When I am gone, release me, let me go.
I have so many things to see and do.
You must not tie yourself to me with tears,
Be happy that we had so many years.
I gave you my love – you can only guess
How much you gave me in happiness.
I thank you for the love you each have shown
But now it is time I traveled on alone.
So grieve awhile for me, if grieve you must,
Then let your grief be comforted by trust.
It’s only for a while that we must part.
So bless the memories within your heart.
I won’t be far away for life goes on.
So if you need me, call and I will come,
Though you can’t see me or touch me, I’ll be near
And if you listen with your heart, you will hear,
All of my love around you, soft and clear.
And then, when you must come this way alone,
I’ll greet you with a smile and a “Welcome Home.”
Order of Service

Rev. Dr. Albert James, Presiding
Rev. Enoch Ward, Jr., Officiating

PROCESSIONAL

Ms. Jacqueline Kyler/ Dr. David Yates

SELECTION

Choir, First Metropolitan Baptist Church

SCRIPTURES

The Old Testament

Dr. E.T. Martin, Pastor,
Springfield Baptist Church

The New Testament

Rev. J.L. Stokes, Pastor,
Second Shiloh Baptist Church

INVOCATION

Rev. Edward Blueford, Pastor
McElmurray Tabernacle Baptist Church

TRIBUTES

Church Member
Dea. Joseph Canada
Minister
Rev. Jackson Parks
Family friend
Mr. Dwayane Hull
Sister-in-law
Mrs. Gearldine Kelly
As a Son
Mr. James L. Gilchrist

SOLO

Mr. Richmond Davis

(READ SILENTLY WITH SOFT MUSIC)

OBITUARY

Ms. Irene Canada

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Choice, First Metropolitan Baptist Church

SELECTION

Rev. Enoch Ward, Jr., Pastor
First Metropolitan Baptist Church

WORDS OF COMFORT

Ms. Jacqueline Kyler / Dr. David Yates

RECESSIONAL

Walker Memorial Gardens

INTERMENT

First Metropolitan Baptist Church

REPAST

First Metropolitan Baptist Church
My Last Request

Please don't say 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's 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 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 as a saint,
I've done some good, I've done some wrong, so use all your paint.
Not just the bright and light ones, 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 all the bad.
For life is full of many things, some happy and some sad.
But if you must do something, then I have one last request
Forgive me for the wrongs I've done and with the love that's left
Thank God for my soul's resting.
Thank God for all who loved me.
Praise God who loved me best.
PALLBEARERS

Active
Michael Kelly  Michael Gilchrist
Richard KellyIII  David Drayton
Bernard Kelly  James Britt

Honorary
Ministers
Deacons, First Metropolitan Baptist Church
Deaconess, First Metropolitan Baptist Church

Flower Bearers

Ushers

Friends

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The family of Reverend Alvin W. Gilchrist wishes to extend heartfelt thanks for the cards, calls, food, visits, prayers and all other acts of kindness that have been shown towards our family during this time of bereavement. Thank you for surrounding us, supporting us and lifting us during this transitional period in our lives. May God bless each of you and heaven shine upon you.

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Services Entrusted to:
C.A. Reid, Sr. Memorial Funeral Home
Augusta, Georgia