

A Tribute to Celebrate the Life of Ms. Christine Garner Atkinson

~ Her absence from the body means presence with The Lord ~

"For though I am absent in body, yet I am with you in spirit, and I rejoice to see your morale and the firmness of your faith in Christ. As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving." Colossians 2:5-7 NRSV



Disciple of the Saint Paul African Methodist Episcopal Church Family
Steward & Chairman of the Commission on Stewardship & Finance
President of the St. Paul AMEC J. L. Williams, Sr. Lay Organization
Financial Secretary of the Eleventh Episcopal District Lay Organization
Missionary of the Violet Williams Women's Missionary Society
Director, Trainer & Coordinator of the Acolyte Ministry
Coordinator of Volunteers for the Eleventh District's Black Heritage Weekend
Business Banking Vice President of MSC - North/Central Florida ~ Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.
Christian Child of God, Friend, Sister, Aunt, Daughter, Cousin, Niece ~ Star on Earth

~ Photos & Design by AJSG ☩ Chris' Friend & "Cuz" who will miss her for the remainder of my Life ~





CHRISTINE GARNER ATKINSON ~ MY FRIEND & "CUZ"

Beyond the Trees ~ A Tribute ~ by Angela Surcey Garner

My life with Christine began when she transferred to our church home,
Embraced by the St. Paul Family & the anointed preaching of our Pastor,
She'd found her place & became family, to another church, no need to roam.

Chris became my very dear friend, she was pretty & could warm a room with her smile,
She was classy, genuine, sweet, caring & a great listener, I could tell her anything;
We have worshipped, traveled, shopped & dined together, she truly had her own style.

We decided we were cousins, one day while I waited at the Condo to travel with her,
As she completed her work for Wells Fargo, she allowed me to wander around,
The photo of a man on the wall resembled my husband, he had to be a Garner.
She said the photo is of her Grandfather & hadn't looked before but now noticed it too,
Chris decided we must be related somehow & announcing our kinship was the thing to do.

Her friendship was special to all that she touched, her relationships went beyond...
God blesses us with persons in this life, whom we love dearly & form a strong bond;
Chris knew that though I appear to be outgoing, I'm really an introvert—you see,
Our times were personal & special, there were many over the years, I know she loved me!

We traveled in "the Benzo" (I called it), most times, sometimes we would rent a car,
A couple of times, while deep in conversation, we passed our exit & went too far;
Those special times together, usually heading home, led to places where we would shop,
Chris introduced me to Macy's & now, if it's in a city I'm visiting, I have to make a stop!

Our other store was Stein-Mart, until with Chris, I had never really shopped there before,
The sales were excellent, we had a great time finding outfits, accessories & trying on clothes,
There's no Macy's in Jacksonville, but there is Stein-Mart—I've learned to visit it more.
Chris was always dressed from head to toe, in fabulous outfits, hats & matching shoes,
She had so much to adorn herself with, in 'the closet room' full of items where she'd choose.

Last year when we traveled to the airport to board our plane for Nashville, Tennessee,
Chris had a large suitcase that was visibly overweight, she smiled & got by with a small fee;
She had many friends, spent time with them all, I felt really special, when she was with me.

We think of things, after a loved one is gone, that we should've said or done,
I wish I'd accepted her offer to hang out in Orlando, it would've been our final shopping fun.
On the Sunday before Chris passed on to Life, I noticed major congestion in her chest,
She said she was fine, had & used her inhaler, 'go to the hospital Chris', I should've stressed.
But we can't dwell on things we didn't say or do, all things work according to God's plan,
I believe He didn't want Chris to suffer, so He brought her Home with a wave of His hand.

I will miss knowing her weekly movement, our hugs on Sundays & other days we'd meet,
I will miss our 'travel talks' where we bared all, I'll miss seeing her in her special Sunday seat;
Chris would often surprise me with gifts: nice outfits & items on sale that she couldn't resist,
That deliciously moist Key Lime cake she baked yearly for my birthday, will surely be missed.

Now we must "keep it moving", going on in life without her, we'll always have great memories,
Christine left her mark of service & love, she touched our hearts, we'll need time to grieve;
She served her time here on this Earth, now Chris is Home, with the Lord, beyond the trees.