

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The family of the late “Rev. Kenneth Lee Oates” would like to offer our gratitude for all acts of kindness shown to our family during this time of bereavement.

Your prayers, phone calls, cards, food and any gestures rendered to us is greatly appreciated. May the love of God be with each of you is our prayer.

## FLOWER BEARERS

Family & Friends

## PALL BEARERS

John Allen  
Paxton Allen  
Christopher King

Christian Lytle  
Devon Oates  
Kurt Oates

ARRANGMENTS ENTRUSTED TO:

**Edwards Small Mortuary**

*“Committed to Excellence”*

1011 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive  
Fort Valley, GA 31030



## MY HERO

You held my hand when I was small  
You caught me when I fell  
You are the hero of my childhood and my  
later years as well  
And every time I think of you  
My heart still fills with pride  
Though I will always miss you Dad  
I know you're by my side  
In laughter and in sorrow  
In sunshine and in rain  
I know you're watching over me  
Until we meet again.



## REST IN PEACE



**Rev. Kenneth Lee Oates**

Sunday, December 11, 2022

2:30 PM

Fairview CME Church

3274 Taylors Mill Road  
Fort Valley, GA 31030

**Rev. Leon Williams, Pastor**

**Rev. Melvin Tookes, Officiant**

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# OBITUARY

Rev. Kenneth Lee Oates was born May 9, 1960 in Fort Valley, Georgia. He graduated from Peach County High School in 1978. He was a dedicated husband, dad, son, brother, and friend. On Wednesday, December 7, 2022, he embarked upon God's final journey for him at the age of 62.

Reverend Oates received an Aircraft Structural Technology certificate from Central Georgia Technical College. He earned an Associate Degree in Informational Technology from Middle Georgia State University. Next, he enrolled in Ashford University and received a degree in Elementary Education. Additionally, he received a Diploma of Systematic Theology from United Christian Church and Bible Institute. Lastly, he received a Biblical Theology Certificate from ITC (Interdenominational Theology Center) in Atlanta, Georgia.

Reverend Oates was united in holy matrimony on September 30, 1989 to Sis. Valerie Sampson. They were blessed with four beautiful children. He started preaching under the Pastorship of Rev. Shedrick Crockett at Fairview CME Church. He pastored in many CME and Baptist Churches in the Middle Georgia area. Rev. Oates was a very dynamic pastor. He preached boldly for 33 years. One would never know he had been diagnosed with pulmonary sarcoidosis 30 years ago by listening to him preach, because he preached with all his might.

Rev. Oates was a God-fearing man. It was evident in the way he interacted with his family and others. He was a momma's boy! He liked to have fun with his family and friends. He never met a stranger. He loved to talk all the time. Also, he was a movie fanatic. Furthermore, he liked to fix and tinker with computers to get them working again. He was known to be the best spade player sitting at his parent's kitchen table. He would sit there half of the night and slap his cards on the table talking trash to his siblings.

Rev. Oates career spanned over many years. He worked at BlueBird, Boeing, Northorpe Grumman, The Georgia Forestry Commission, The Methodist Home, and Ingram Pye Elementary School in Macon, Georgia as a 2nd grade teacher. He was very passionate about teaching and preaching the history of the Bible. He was an avid reader. He enjoyed reading the Bible, but he was deeply interested in the historical events of the Old Testament which led to much research about this time in history. As a result of his research, he was in the process of writing a book based on Old Testament research from a different perspective.

He leaves to cherish his memories: wife, Valerie Sampson, children: Kendra (Christopher McKenzie) Ft. Valley, GA; Kenneth Vashon, Warner Robins, GA; twins: Kendall and Kayla, Macon, GA; Travis Oates, Ft. Valley, GA and Bradney Brown (deceased) Byron, GA; grandchildren: Morgan McKenzie, Kaiden McKenzie, TyVisa Brown, Saniyah Brown, Nevaeh Brown; great grandchild, Kyree Brown; loving parents: Ulysses Oates, Sr. and Bernice Russell Oates, Ft. Valley, GA; sister: Tracey (Perry West) McDonough, GA; brothers: Marcus (Dr. Mary) McDonough, GA; Ulysses Jr. (Greta) Ft. Valley, GA; Curtis (Dorothy) Macon, GA; along with a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

# ORDER OF SERVICE

*Officiating, Rev. Melvin Tookes*

## Processional

### Selection

Mr. Caleb Jefferson

### Prayer

Minister Milton Sampson

### Scripture

Old Testament

Rev. Harriss Hardwick

### Hymn

Rev. LaQuavious Wilson

### Reflections

Sis. Dorothy Wilson

Deacon Charlie Robinson

Sis. Betty Lowe

### Selection

Deacon Eddie Lowe

### Homegoing Message

Rev. Arthur Gordon

### Acknowledgements

Edwards Small Mortuary Staff

### Benediction

### Recessional



### Interment

Fairview CME Church

### Repast

Fairview CME dining hall

# TIL DEATH DO US PART

When life seems a blur, And I can't quite believe  
That I'm living without you  
And you were taken from me,  
I sit back and think  
Of the memories we shared,  
All the laughs that you gave me  
And the times that you cared.

Til death do us part.  
That's true in our case.  
I miss you so much,  
Your voice and your face.

Time is a healer.  
I can't say that it's true, But life does go on,  
Which means without you.

When it all gets too much  
And I wish you were here,  
I feel thankful that I met you,  
And I hold you close, my dear.

Til death do us part. That's true in our case.  
I miss you so much,  
Your voice and your face.

