



Church Women United, Brooklyn Unit Mourns the Passing of

## *Mrs. Ophelia Perry*

Founder of Seven Last Words presented by Church Women United (CWU)  
at Friendship Baptist Church.



*CWU President Shelia Davis, and Chairperson of The Ophelia Perry Scholarship, Rev. Dr. Valerie Oliver Durrah jointly announce the passing of Ophelia Perry*

It is with deep sadness we share the passing of the Former President of Church Women United Brooklyn Unit. We will truly miss Ophelia Perry who was pinnacle in the growth, development and missional efforts of CWU across New York State. We mourn with her family & friends during this difficult time.

Born on June 18<sup>th</sup>, Mrs. Ophelia Young Perry is a native of Buckingham County, Virginia. She presently resides with her husband, Mr. William Frank Perry, Jr. in a nursing home of Brooklyn, New York. The Perry's have one son, Rev. William Franc Perry, III, Esq., Supreme Court Judge located in the State of New York.

In January of 2019, Judge Perry, on behalf of his family, reviewed and approved the Ophelia Perry Scholarship application. He also gave his blessings and thanks to Church Women United on behalf of his parents. Mrs. Perry has been an active member of the Berean Missionary Baptist Church in Brooklyn for nearly 70 years.

Mrs. Perry has been involved in community and civic affairs. She was the former President of Church Women United, Brooklyn Chapter. Church Women United (CWU) is the world's largest ecumenical movement of Christian women. Under Mrs. Perry's leadership, the movement's membership increased to include over 700 Christian women. It is the largest unit of CWU in the country.

In response to shrewd spiritual insight, Mrs. Perry conceived the idea for an observance centered around the "Seven Last Words of Christ." For the past 35 years ecumenical worship begins at 7:00 A.M. on Good Friday and the attendance continues to grow. These services have been held in various community churches and have continued to draw widespread worshipers. Participants travel throughout the metropolitan area and from many other parts of the United States to attend this annual worship celebration. Additionally, she organized the initial Annual Awards Luncheon for the organization and continues to provide her expertise in this worthy cause today.

Under Mrs. Perry's leadership, the Brooklyn Unit of CWU sponsors many other activities to raise funds to make contributions to others in need, including: Holiday sharing, contributions to World Church Services, Rose F. Kennedy Residence for Girls, Project Teen Aid, Herbert G. Birch Services, Antigua/Barbuda Cultural Society, Inc, Fund for Burned Churches, Bedford-Stuyvesant Volunteer Ambulatory Service, Hurricane Floyd Victims in North Carolina and they provide aid to orphaned foreign sisters living in the U.S – just to name a few.

Mrs. Perry also has been affiliated with Berean Missionary Baptist Church, The Links Incorporated, The Women's Civic League of Abyssinian Baptist Church, the Black and Puerto Rican Caucus, the Eastern Baptist Association, Spouses of the Black Congressional Caucus and is a member of the National Council of Negro Women of Brooklyn. Mrs. Perry has won numerous awards for her work including: Women of the Year Award--The National Conference of Christians and Jews, Salute to Brooklyn Women Leadership Humanitarian Award--The Brooklyn League, The Woman's History Month Honoree--Brooklyn District Attorney, The Caribbean American Award--Chamber of Commerce, Outstanding Service Award--The Council of Churches, City of N.Y., Woman of Influence Award--Brooklyn YWCA, Thomas R. Fortune Community Service Award--Unity Democratic Club,

Valiant Woman Award--Church Women United, Sandy F. Ray Award--Religious and Humanitarian Award--Cornerstone Baptist Church, Religious Award--People's Institutional AME Church, Religious Award--New Life Tabernacle Life Changing Ministries, Congressional Record United States House of Representatives, Woman of the Year for Community Service--Bridge Street AME Church, ``Brooklyn Women of Essence" Con Edison and, finally, National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women, Global Ministries Humanitarian Award and International Affairs Division.

After working for 18 years for Borough President Howard Golden as Liaison to the Christian Community, Borough President, Marty Markowitz appointed her as Good Will Ambassador for Brooklyn Churches.

In September 2018, at their opening meeting, Church Women United, Brooklyn Chapter, under the leadership of President Sheila Davis, voted unanimously to establish a scholarship in Mrs. Ophelia Perry honor. This proposal was conceived and presented by Rev. Dr. Valerie Oliver Durrah, Founder and President of Neighborhood Technical Assistance Clinic (NTAC) and who is also a member of CWU, Brooklyn Unit. Brooklyn Borough President, Eric Adams provided support to NTAC to assist in the development of the Scholarship Fund in honor of Ophelia Perry. Rev. Dr. Durrah agreed to serve as its Scholarship Committee Chairperson. Members of the Ophelia Perry Scholarship Committee include: Jacqueline Kalokoh, Zenner Bostic, Sandra Underwood, Latrel Mosso, and Dr. Aperele Elliott.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sheila Davis, Brooklyn Unit President  
Antonia Daniels, Interim NYS President  
Mira J. Washington, NE Regional Coordinator  
Church Women United In New York State