***Valeri McNeal*** was a person of light who served as a guiding beacon in her beloved city, where she lived her entire life. After graduating from the University of Maryland with a degree in urban studies, she first worked as a paralegal and then joined what is now known as the Maryland Commission on Civil Rights, where she worked as a human relations representative in the investigative unit before becoming an intake officer. A long-time member of the first Unitarian Church of Baltimore, she conducted tours of the historic building, maintained church archives, and assisted in the restoration of its sanctuary and its 1818 pulpit designed by the French architect Maximilian Godefroy. At the time of her death, she was restoring the lectern in the church. As an avid gardener, she also tended a garden along the side of the church. Her love of history led her to the Baltimore City Historical Society where she was a board member and secretary. Every year she managed the welcome table for the Mayor’s Reception. She was a member of Baltimore Heritage, chair of her church’s Architectural and Historical Review Committee, and member and past president of the African American Quilters of Baltimore.