

*Celebrating the Life
of
Cecelia Bailey Whittaker*

*Sunrise
October 15, 1934*

*Sunset
April 18, 2022*



Friday, May 6, 2022

*Viewing: 10:00 a.m.
Service: 11:00 a.m.*

*From the Heart Church Ministries®
Annex at 5055 Allentown Road
Suitland, Maryland 20746*

Bishop John A. Cherry, II - Pastor

Obituary

Cecelia Ernestine Bailey Whittaker was born on October 15, 1934, to the late Reginald Mercedes Bailey and Frances Pauline Bailey in Norfolk, Virginia. She was the second eldest of eight children.

When Cecelia was in the second grade the family relocated to Washington, D.C. And in 1952, she graduated from Cordozo Senior High School. She subsequently attended Miner Teachers College, a segregated school, which later became integrated as the University of the District of Columbia.

In 1956, she began a career with the U. S. Census Bureau, where she became a computer operator. Cecelia's tenure at the Bureau lasted 34 years. While working there, she met her future late husband, John. They were married in January 1962; and from their union, three children were born.

Cecelia a "techie," was always at the forefront of technology, and the first person in her family to acquire the latest technological advances. Her other interests and enjoyable pastimes included gardening, reading, fishing, crabbing, photography, bowling, watching Washington sports teams (football, baseball, and basketball), completing crossword and jigsaw puzzles, and listening to different genres of music.

Additionally, Cecelia was a nurturer whose passion was caring for others—especially children. In fact, she helped care for her younger siblings, her children, grandchildren, and even her great-grandchildren. At 73, she adopted her 9-year-old grandson whom she lovingly raised. When asked if she was available to adopt, Cecelia wholeheartedly replied, "That is what family is for." She was a quiet, independent, do-it-yourself kind of person who did not make excuses or complain when faced with difficult life situations.

Moreover, Cecelia had a servant's heart. In 2000, she joined From the Heart Church Ministries and was actively involved in the life of the church faithfully serving in the Duplication Ministry, Helps Ministry, and Physical Stewardship Ministry. She will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved her.

Cecelia leaves to cherish her memory her sons, Jeffrey and Michael; daughters, Jennifer and Stephanie; grandsons: Roger, Ryan, Christopher, Garrett, and Reginald; granddaughters, Cecelia and Imani; great-grandsons: Christopher, Trevonne, and Isaiah; great-granddaughters, Taylor and Jasmine; brothers, Vincent (Deborah) and Michael; sisters, Blanche and Bernadette; sister-in-law, Gloria; a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, other relatives and friends; as well as her From the Heart Church Ministries family.

Order of Service

Invocation

Scripture Reading

*Old Testament: Psalm 96
New Testament: I Thessalonians 4:13-18*

Prayer of Comfort

Selection *FTH Psalmist*

Acknowledgements

Remarks

*Mr. Garrett Whittaker, Grandson
Mr. Michael Whittaker, Son
Miss Stephanie Whittaker, Daughter*

Obituary (*Read Silently*)

Song of Preparation *FTH Psalmist*

Message of Hope *Minister Vance Page*

Call to Christ

Benediction

Recessional

Interment
*Cheltenham Veterans Cemetery
11301 Crain Highway
Cheltenham, MD 20623
(Date to be determined)*







Family Sentiments

What Will Matter

By Michael Josephson

Ready or not, some day it will all come to an end.

There will be no more sunrises, no minutes, hours, or days.

All the things you collected, whether treasured or forgotten, will pass to someone else.

Your wealth, fame, and temporal power will shrivel to irrelevance.

It will not matter what you owned or what you were owed.

Your grudges, resentments, frustrations, and jealousies will finally disappear.

So, too, your hopes, ambitions, plans, and to-do lists will expire.

The wins and losses that once seemed so important will fade away.

It won't matter where you came from, or what side of the tracks you lived on at the end.

It won't matter whether you were beautiful or brilliant.

Even your gender and skin color will be irrelevant.

So, what will matter? How will the value of your days be measured?

What will matter is not what you bought but what you built; not what you got but what you gave.

What will matter is not your success but your significance.

What will matter is not what you learned but what you taught.

*What will matter is every act of integrity, compassion, courage, or sacrifice that enriched,
empowered, or encouraged others to emulate your example.*

What will matter is not your competence but your character.

*What will matter is not how many people you knew but how many
will feel a lasting loss when you're gone.*

What will matter is not your memories but the memories of those who loved you.

What will matter is how long you will be remembered, by whom, and for what.

Living a life that matters doesn't happen by accident.

It's not a matter of circumstance but of choice. Choose to live a life that matters.

Family Sentiments (Continued)

Grandmothers are universally precious.

Family is precious.

And we all get a limited amount of time with our families,

Whether by birth, chosen, or constellation.

Time and circumstance can feel like an enemy.

But no matter how much or how little time we get,

It is all equally permanent.

The time I did get with my Grandmother, the little things I got to know about her,

Her generosity, interests, and few words,

will always hold monumental space in my heart.

I am grateful to learn our similarities and differences

and hope to keep hearing more of her stories throughout my lifetime,

Until we meet again, to share each other's stories.

Love, your granddaughter, Imani Karpowich-Smith

Pallbearers

*Trevonne Gillison
Ryan Howard
Garrett Whittaker
Reginald Whittaker
Roger Whittaker*

Flower Bearers

Family and Friends

Acknowledgement

The family of Cecelia Ernestine Bailey Whittaker, acknowledges with deep appreciation every act of kindness and expression of love shown to us during our time of bereavement. Your many acts of kindness and expressions of sympathy have been a blessing to us. May the Lord Jesus Christ bless and keep you in perfect peace!



*Services Entrusted to:
Stewart Funeral Home
4001 Benning Road, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20019*